

West Bank blast wounds 3

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An explosion of unknown origin wounded three Palestinian youths inside the village of Tamnun in the occupied West Bank Friday, Arab hospital officials said. Sawaz Basharat, 17, Haled Basharat, 14, and Mosmood Basharat, 13, were taken to hospital with burns on their faces, hands, legs and stomachs, the sources said. The army said the circumstances of the explosion were unclear and a probe had begun. An army spokesman said no troops operated in the area of Tamnun Friday. A series of unexplained explosions outside Tamnun at the end of 1988 and beginning of 1989 killed at least two Palestinian youths and wounded at least nine. Palestinians said they were victims of explosive devices dropped on roads in the area by the army. The army contended the blasts were caused by unexploded magnesium flares or material obtained by Palestinians from military areas to make homemade bombs.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

U.S. condemns Lebanon 'slaughter'

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Friday condemned fighting that has devastated Lebanon, urging Syrian and Lebanese troops and various factions to stop what it termed a "slaughter of innocent people." The United States condemns the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent people and the renewed use of heavy calibre weapons, such as the 240-mm mortar, which are in the Syrian arsenal. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters at a briefing. "Weapons such as this are particularly destructive, reaching deep into shelters and inflicting casualties among non-combatants." "We again call upon Syria, an active participant in the fighting, the Lebanese armed forces as well as the various Lebanese factions, for an immediate ceasefire, the lifting of all blockades and the initiation of a dialogue for the political reconstruction of Lebanon." "The escalation and the shedding and the dramatic increase in casualties give urgent impetus to all call for the Arab League to overcome the obstructions facing it, and resume its efforts on behalf of the people of Lebanon."

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Jordan celebrates anniversary of King's accession to the throne

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Friday celebrated the 37th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

It was 37 years ago today, when the 17-year-old prince became King of Jordan, continuing the march of the Great Arab Revolt against backwardness, colonialism and ignorance and as a manifestation of the people's cohesion with the leadership to confront all challenges facing the Arab Nation.

In celebrating this occasion, Jordanians take pride in the achievements of their country under King Hussein, and take satisfaction over the esteemed position this country has been able to acquire among other

nations and its continued endeavours to serve the Arab World and Arab causes.

The anniversary finds the King deeply involved in efforts to promote the Palestinian cause and support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in their current uprising against injustice and occupation.

The King, who succeeded at the Amman Arab summit in achieving agreement and consensus among Arab leaders, continues his endeavours to offer services to the Arab Nation.

Under King Hussein, Jordan executed several development plans designed to boost the national economy, promote so-

cial services and bolster the Kingdom's image on the regional and international levels.

The Royal Court received cables addressed to the King voicing the Jordanian people's loyalty and allegiance to the Hashemite throne and paying tribute to the monarch's endeavours on all fronts.

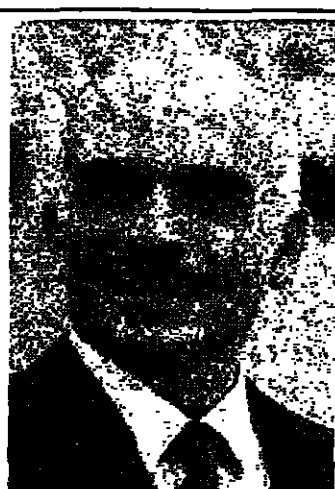
To mark the occasion, a 15-day national industrial exhibition was opened at the Amman International Exhibition site in Marj Al Hammam near Amman Thursday.

His Majesty King Hussein opened the exhibition which displays various samples of Jordanian products and toured parts of the exhibition in which 170 Jordanian firms are

participating. In a statement later, King Hussein voiced his pride in the national industry. The King said he was optimistic that the national industry will forge ahead with confidence and serve as a strong supporter for the national economy.

Through national industries, Jordan can supply itself with many of its needs for reconstruction and development and can increase its exports to foreign markets, the King said.

On display are petrochemicals, cosmetics, perfumes, electrical appliances, metal and wood work, furniture, kitchenware, textile and plastic products, refrigerators, gas ranges and other various equipment



His Majesty King Hussein made in Jordan. Before leaving, King Hussein signed a visitors register in which he voiced his delight at what he had seen and his

(Continued on page 3)

Beirut pulverised

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The sound of exploding shells coursed through city streets and smoke billowed from the wooded slopes southeast of Beirut Friday as rival gunners duelled with howitzers and rocket launchers.

Authorities said the barrage started at 11 a.m. (0800 GMT), shattering a nine-hour tentative lull that prevailed following 15 hours of devastating bombardment that killed 27 people and wounded 152.

A spokesman for army commander Michel Aoun blamed Syrians and their militia allies for starting Friday, saying his gunners "only responded to the Syrian fire at 2:30 p.m. (1130 GMT)."

The Syrians and Syrian-backed militiamen, according to the spokesman, started the shelling by targeting, among other areas, the general's residence at the shattered presidential palace in suburban Baabda.

He said no casualties were reported at the palace.

Aoun, 54, has been living in the bunker three stories under the palace since the confrontation broke out March 8.

The spokesman, who refused to be named, said the artillery barrage also targeted Beirut's eastern suburbs of Hadath and Baabda in addition to the Metn region north of the city.

The barrage sharply escalated Thursday when gunners concen-

trated their shelling on the presidential palace, hammering it with demolishing salvos of mortars.

By police count, the confrontation between Aoun's 20,000 predominantly Christian troops and the Syrian-backed militiamen has claimed 576 lives and wounded 1,474 people.

Stunned civilians stumbled out of underground shelters during the early morning lull to take stock of the damage inflicted on their apartments, businesses and cars in Beirut, the southeastern mountains and the eastern Bekaa Valley.

"Innocent civilians left the dark shelters only to be faced by the bitter truth. This devastating war has eaten up their properties," the Voice of the Nation radio said.

"Is this meaningless war going to continue until the last Lebanese is dead?" the announcer asked, his voice choking with emotion.

The acting Sunni Muslim mufti, Sheikh Mohammad Rashid Qabbani, said in a statement broadcast by the radio that the combatants should "have mercy on the innocent children, women and old men who are dying under the rubble of the criminal shelling."

"Nations cannot be built by destruction," Qabbani said. Parts of Beirut looked as if they had been hit by a tornado. Streets

were littered with fallen trees, broken glass, twisted power pylons, burned out cars and other debris.

Roads in both sectors of the divided capital were craters with rocket and shell holes. Broken furniture from bombed-out apartments lay scattered everywhere and the acrid smell of burning filled the air.

Shell explosions, accompanied by the whooshing sound of rockets and the wailing of ambulance sirens, echoed across Beirut and the surrounding mountains overnight as fires, blazing out of control, lit up the night sky.

Security sources said more than 10,000 shells and rockets rained down overnight at the intensity of 60 shells per minute at peak times.

One noted that the "killing ground was expanded" during the duel, with Aoun's gunners targeting Syrian positions as far as Baalbek and other sectors of the Bekaa.

An Arab League committee comprising the heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco has declared defeat in two months of mediation to end the carnage.

"Politically all doors are closed. There is nothing except fighting and killing, the fighting will get out of control by the end of the summer," one politician said.

Israel doubles 'administrative detention'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army Friday doubled the period for which Palestinians can be held without trial or indictment, bringing to one year the initial term of "administrative detention" in a renewed effort to quell the 20-month Palestinian uprising.

The army said the step was made "for security reasons and in accordance with the situation existing these days in the (occupied) territories."

The orders were issued by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and were approved by Justice Minister Dan Meridor, it said.

Israel denies detention without trial as an effective means of arresting violent ringleaders without revealing sources of information. But attorneys complain they

cannot respond to unspecified, secret charges against Palestinian suspects.

The U.S. state Department report on human rights, released last February, criticised the procedure and disputed Israeli claims by saying that in many cases, Palestinians were detained for political reasons or non-violent activities.

The report also said that some 20 per cent of detention orders have been renewed.

Army figures released Friday say 9,136 Palestinians currently are in Israeli jails for uprising-related offenses, including those in "administrative detention."

The new orders require a military judge to review each detention at least every six months, an

army statement said.

Army figures show 2,111 Palestinians from the occupied territories are held in "administrative detention," most of them in Ketziot, a desert prison camp.

"Administrative detention," a key measure used against the uprising, has been criticised by international and local human rights groups.

The new order appeared to be mainly a bureaucratic convenience since the army can renew current six-month orders. But it was a victory for Rabin, who is trying to free his hand from legal constraints in the occupied territories.

Meridor recently rejected Rabin's attempts to expel Palestinians before supreme court appeals against the orders were

heard.

A lawyer from the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) said the extension would mean more Palestinians needlessly remaining in jail.

"All it seems to me is a matter of convenience at the expense of the freedom of the prisoner," said Joshua Schoffman.

ACRI estimates more than 5,000 Palestinians have been jailed without trial since the start of the uprising.

In the West Bank, a leaflet signed by Hamas, the Islamic movement, rejected the plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories as a plot to end the revolt.

"It's all a conspiracy," said the leaflet, Hamas' 46th during the uprising. "We are stressing our

position against this plan whose only aim is to control the intifada and put an end to its achievements."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman told Reuters Shamir had met in the past two weeks with a Palestinian in attempts to win Arab acceptance of the plan that could lead to interim self-rule.

The meeting would be the fifth between Shamir and a Palestinian over the initiative. The spokesman refused to name the Arab participant.

The death toll in the revolt rose to at least 590 Palestinians when a youth died Thursday in a hospital in Jerusalem.

Officials said Mohammad Tawfik Suleiman Hassan, 15, died after being shot in the head.

Fadlallah offers help over hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The spiritual guide of Hizbollah, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, offered Friday to help free Western hostages held in Lebanon provided the West helped release Arab prisoners in Israel.

Fadlallah made his comments in a sermon at south Beirut's Bir Al Abed mosque during the Ashura ceremonies marking the death anniversary of the Shi'ite Muslim's most revered saint, Imam Hussein Ibn Ali, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad.

"I am ready to help free the Western hostages provided that Western countries help release Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in Israel," said Fadlallah.

"Let us get to an agreement together so that each side would use his own means and influence to end the crisis of the hostages, all hostages, and resolve the problem of Arab prisoners," added Fadlallah.

Despite public disclaimers, Hizbollah (Party of God) is believed to be the umbrella for underground factions holding most of the 16 Western hostages in Lebanon.

Fadlallah's statement seemed to corroborate an offer made earlier this month by the kidnappers of American hostage Joseph Ames Cicippio, but Fadlallah topped short of mentioning names or figures.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) had offered to free Cicippio if Israel released 50 Arab prisoners and allowed 5 expelled Palestinians to return to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But a leader of the pro-Iranian movement ruled out dealing with israel, which kidnapped Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid July 28 as a lever to free three Israeli prisoners of war and 16 Western hostages.

In a speech to about 50,000 Shi'ite Muslims at a religious rally in the eastern city of Baalbek, Sheikh Sobhi Tofelli said Hizbollah would only use force against israel.

"Our enemy should not expect to open the doors of negotiations," he said.

The rally, and another attended by some 10,000 black-and-white men, women and children in Beirut's southern suburbs, asked the Ashura rites. Trampling on U.S. and Israeli flags, the crowds held giant post-

ers of the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, his successor Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and Obeid.

"Death to America, death to Israel... we will rub America's nose in the mud," they chanted, beating their chests in mourning for Hussein.

"Israel and the United States decided to kidnap Sheikh Obeid to teach a lesson to the terrorists thinking this would make us bow down and beg, but we rejected the humiliation," Tofelli said.

"We demanded the release of Obeid and they thought it was a joke. But after 24 hours the corpse of Higgins was hanging in front of the world in the most humiliating image of an American spy."

A pro-Iranian group believed linked to Hizbollah said it hanged U.S. hostage William Higgins in revenge for Obeid's abduction.

Tofelli said the world then expected an attack by Washington "but the oppressed took the initiative and dealt the Israeli army a severe strike inside the security zone."

Hizbollah said a suicide truck bomb attack on an Israeli army convoy in South Lebanon Wednesday, which wounded five soldiers, was in revenge for Obeid's abduction.

The White House, reacting to Fadlallah's offer, said Friday its attitude was one of patience and determination.

"It's an interesting statement. We don't have any comment on it," spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters.

Fitzwater explained his reluctance to respond to Fadlallah by saying: "I think we'd like to lower our voices a little and let these issues play out for a few days."

He said indirect discussions aimed at freeing the hostages were going on "through any number of channels" but that there were no new developments.

"We have always said it's a long process and we need to be patient. We need to let developments flow back and forth," the White House official said.

Fitzwater Thursday held out the possibility of direct talks with Iran over the hostages under certain conditions, but cautioned, "we're nowhere near that."

Iran's official news agency sent mixed signals Thursday on Washington-Tehran contacts over the hostage issue.



Two Lebanese women hold a poster of abducted cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid in a demonstration in Beirut

Poles stage 'warning strike'

WARSAW (Agencies) — A one-hour protest strike for economic and political demands shut down public transportation and factories Friday in the Baltic port city of Gdansk, officials of the Solidarity independent trade union said.

The general strike was the first province-wide action taken by Solidarity since it was legalised in April following negotiations with Communist authorities. Solidarity had been banned since 1981.

The strike came as Solidarity and Communist leaders battle over setting up a new government under reforms negotiated in unprecedented talks early this year.

Solidarity, which won all but one parliament seat available to it in subsequent elections, wants to form a non-Communist coalition with two smaller parties, while the Communists have proposed a coalition involving all factions.

Two key Solidarity political leaders said Thursday the move-

ment intended to head the government, but Bronislaw Geremek and Adam Michnik raised the possibility of including reform-minded Communists.

The government newspaper Rzeczpospolita Friday reiterated the call for a "grand coalition" government that would include Solidarity and the Communists.

But the opposition paper Gazeta Wyborcza said only a Solidarity-led government would convince Poles of authentic change and "bring about the social reawakening necessary for reconstruction after the catastrophe."

Up to 80,000 Solidarity members and thousands of other Poles stopped work in Gdansk shipyards Friday and factories and draped their gates and walls with Solidarity flags in Poland's red-and-white national colours, a union spokesman said.

"The strike went even better than we had expected, and even

inside the plants where Solidarity is not very strong many workers supported the protest and joined in," said Bogdan Bonarski, Solidarity chairman in the Gdansk region.

The workers were protesting at food price increases of up to 500 per cent which took effect last week when the government lifted subsidies on almost all items.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, who attended a strike rally at the Komuna Paryska shipyard in the port of Gdynia, said he would continue to resist Communist Prime Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak's efforts to prevent the opposition from forming its own government.

"I opposed Kiszczak before, and I will do it now that he is prime minister," Walesa said. "No government could stay in office more than 10 months, and I doubt that Kiszczak will succeed in forming a new government."

Leland remains missing

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland and his aircraft are still missing in Ethiopia after two distress signals picked up by satellite proved to be false trails, a U.S. embassy spokesman said Friday.

He told Reuters that American and Ethiopian search planes had found no trace of the missing aircraft after sweeping the mountains of Bale in the south and the region of Gojjam in the north-west.

Leland, another eight Americans and seven Ethiopians have been missing since Monday.

Their Twin Otter plane vanished while flying from Addis Ababa to a refugee camp on the Sudanese border.

The embassy spokesman said the search would now resume in western Ethiopia, flying along the Twin Otter's presumed route from the capital to Fudido.

The spokesman said two Hercules C-130 cargo planes were equipped to pick up emergency locator transmissions from a downed plane but heard nothing in the areas where two separate signals had been detected by U.S. weather satellites.

He said foot patrols also were dispatched from nearby villages to investigate the source of both signals but also found nothing.

Both signals were significantly off the recorded flight plan of the plane. Officials had said Thursday the signals may have come from other sources.

One of the signals was directly opposite the direction Leland's party was headed, while the other came from a spot about 90 degrees off the flight plan.

The 44-year-old congressman is chairman of the House of Representative Select Committee on Hunger. He was travelling to Fudido to inspect a camp housing some 30,000 Sudanese refugees who receive U.S. aid.

Heavy clouds, rain and low visibility have prevented evening aerial searches since the rescue mission began four days ago.

The Canadian-built plane, which seats up to 20 passengers, was owned by Ethiopia's government relief agency. It was equipped with an emergency locator transmitter.

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Kaifu to focus on political reforms

TOKYO (R) — New Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Friday he would focus on Japan's key domestic issues of political and tax reform that cost his ruling party a crushing defeat in elections last month.

At his first news conference since being elected prime minister Wednesday, Kaifu spoke mostly on measures to handle voter disgust with a controversial sales tax and the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal that crippled his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"My basic stance is dialogue and reform," said the 58-year-old former education minister, portrayed by his colleagues as the man to rejuvenate the LDP.

Kaifu, as yet little known to Japanese voters, stopped short of

announcing any diplomatic initiative except to say that he would like to visit Washington soon to meet President George Bush.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Tokuo Yamashita has said Kaifu's trip to the United States may take place in early September.

Kaifu also said Friday there was no truth to media reports that he had an illegitimate daughter.

"I feel strong resentment about such an irresponsible report," Kaifu told the news conference. "I myself was surprised."

The Nagoya Times, a newspaper published in central Japan, said in its Aug. 4 edition that Kaifu had a child from a relationship with a former model.

Kaifu said he had formally called on the paper to retract and apologise for the report.

Unidentified men attack U.N. forces in Namibia

WINDHOEK (Agencies) — Gunmen have attacked United Nations troops for the first time since they arrived to police Namibia's progress towards independence, and the U.N. Friday condemned the assault as terrorism.

A commercial security guard was killed when unidentified gunmen threw grenades and fired guns from a vehicle at a U.N. post in the northern Namibian town of Outjo.

A similar attack, in which no one was injured, was made on an Outjo military compound where Kenyan troops are billeted.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the Thursday evening attacks.

the first on U.N. troops since they arrived April 1 to supervise Namibia's transition to independence from South Africa next year.

The U.N. special representative in Namibia, Martti Ahtisaari, deplored "all acts of terrorism" whether directed at the U.N. or other parties.

"I expect all Namibians to unite in the condemnation of such acts," he said in a statement.

"I wish to declare that I and UNTAG (United Nations Transition Group) will not be diverted from our task of supervising and controlling the implementation of U.N. Resolution 435."

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Fateh rejects U.S. criticism of its political strategy

TUNIS (Agencies) — The main Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction Fateh rejected Friday U.S. criticism of its new political programme as nonsensical and indicative of bias in favour of Israel.

"We have not signed peace with Israel. Israel has rejected our peace initiative, they are killing our people daily, they are keeping the Middle East on the brink of war, and we are to be blamed for a sentence about armed action? That's nonsense," Fateh Central Committee member Khaled Al Hassan told Reuters.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday that the programme endorsed by a Fateh congress this week was unhelpful and raised questions about Fateh's commitment to peace.

The programme advocated "intensifying and escalating armed action and all forms of struggle to eliminate the Zionist Israeli occupation of our occupied Palestinian land."

Hassan, one of Fateh's founding members, added, "When the (right-wing Israeli) Likud party makes such statements and even rejects the whole idea of peace, they (the United States) do not use such harsh words."

Asked about Israel's reaction to the programme, he said: "That's normal, because they are still our enemies."

Israeli foreign ministry officials said the new Fateh programme was a step backwards and unacceptable even to dovish members of Israel's coalition government.

Told that Washington said the PLO-American dialogue would continue, Hassan said, "That's

very generous of them."

The Fateh resolution, distributed by the Palestinian news agency Wafa, did not say what kind of military operations might be conducted outside the occupied lands or define "all other forms of battle."

Hardliners had pressed the congress to recommend extending the armed struggle beyond the West Bank and Gaza. PLO leader Yasser Arafat's declaration that military action would be confined to the occupied territories had helped persuade the Bush administration to open a dialogue with the PLO.

Council expanded
The Fateh congress ended Thursday by expanding its Revolutionary Council to include militant Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza.

The meeting, which was originally scheduled to conclude Tuesday after the final political declaration was issued, was extended two days to allow more than 1,000 Fateh members to conduct additional internal business.

It was the first meeting in nine years of the faction.

Meeting under tight security Thursday, the congress voted to double the membership of the Revolutionary Council from 50 to about 100, reserving an unspecified number of places for people from the occupied territories, conference sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The exact number of council members and the names of those selected from the occupied territories were not provided "for security reasons," the PLO sources told the AP.

The Revolutionary Council is a decision-making body between

the PLO's governing Central Committee and the full membership of Fateh.

Wafa reported Wednesday that the congress had elected 18 of the 21 members of its new Central Committee. The other three members were to be chosen by the committee itself. Nine of those elected, including the first woman ever to serve, were new to the committee which previously had just 15 members.

The woman, Intissar Al Wazir, is the widow of Palestinian military leader Khalil Al Wazir who was killed in an Israeli operation last April at his home near Tunis.

Arafat was reelected to head the Central Committee Monday, a vote seen as expressing confidence in Arafat's leadership.

Intissar Al Wazir said she was voted into the committee not because she was a woman but because of her history of struggle for Palestinians.

Mrs. Wazir, 47, became the first woman to reach the top rank of the Palestinian leadership with her election.

She told the Saudi Al Madina newspaper in an interview published Friday this reflected the confidence Fateh members had in her involvement in the movement since the first cells were formed in the late 1950s.

"My presence inside the Central Committee represents a breakthrough the unintentional blockade imposed on Palestinian woman against joining such ranks."

Daughter of a beekeeper from the Gaza Strip, she started as a typist and distributor of leaflets for a cell of Fateh in Cairo soon after she and her family left Gaza.



The wreckage of an Israeli vehicle destroyed in Wednesday's suicide attack in South Lebanon.

Bombers dream — kill Rushdie

BEIRUT (R) — The suicide bomber who wounded five Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon said in videotape released Friday his dream had been to kill British author Salman Rushdie.

"I wish I had executed the death sentence of the hypocrite agent Salman Rushdie, fulfilling the edict of Imam Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, but God graced me with the operation against Israel," said Asad Berro in his videotaped final testament.

Khomeini died in June four months after ordering Muslims to kill Rushdie for blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses." Several pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon said they would carry out the command.

Berro urged "all strugglers" to find out where Rushdie was and kill him. The author has been hiding since Khomeini's edict, which caused outrage in the West and led to the breaking of diplomatic ties between Britain and Iran.

The videotape was distributed by Hizbollah (Party of God), which claimed responsibility for Wednesday's attack in which Berro drove a truck rigged with explosives into an Israeli army convoy patrolling a buffer zone in South Lebanon.

Hizbollah said the attack was to avenge Israel's abduction of pro-Iranian cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid.

"We Hizbollah have to be the

first in delivering such gifts. The first gift will be this operation against the cancerous gland Israel," Berro said.

Hizbollah described the attack as a gift to the late Iranian spiritual leader on the occasion of the Ashura, one of the main dates on the Shi'ite religious calendar. It marks the martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein.

Berro said his operation was also a gift to the 20-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and to Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners of Israel.

Israel controls a 15-kilometre-wide "security zone" along its border with Lebanon.

Afghan air force to get MiG-29s

KABUL (Agencies) — The Soviet Union is to supply Afghanistan's air force with top-line MiG-29 fighter planes, according to a senior Afghan military official.

If confirmed, delivery of the planes, which Kabul could use in its battle against U.S.- and Pakistan-backed Mujahideen guerrillas, would greatly boost Afghan air power and diplomats here said the United States would be sure to view it negatively.

General Abdul Haq Ulumi, a member of the Afghan supreme Military Council and the armed forces representative on the ruling party's central committee, told journalists that contracts for MiG-29s and SU-27s—all-weather ground-attack fighters had been completed and deliveries should begin soon.

Ulumi gave no details of how many were to be sent or exactly when they would arrive. A Soviet diplomat said delivery of the planes was very possible but would not say whether or not the deal was firm.

MiG-29 fighters are among the most sophisticated aircraft sold by the Soviet Union and the only other country in the region to have them in its air force is India.

Pakistan, generally regarded as the most powerful air power in Central Asia, has the equivalent

American fighter, the F-15. Afghanistan increasingly accuses Pakistan of using its armed forces to aid the Mujahideen rebels in their fight to overthrow the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

"The Soviets have promised to give us new weapons," Ulumi told an Austrian television crew Thursday. A tape of the interview was made available to Reuters.

"These are aircraft which are to defend Afghanistan in the face of any possible Pakistani air attack... these aircraft are MiG-29s and SU-27s," he added.

Ulumi said Pakistani planes had invaded Afghan airspace and been repulsed. But Pakistan, where seven of the Afghan resistance groups are based, denies the charges.

"The general said that no matter how weary Afghanistan's armed forces were in their 10-year-old battle against the Mujahideen, they would fight on if Pakistan provoked a military confrontation."

Afghanistan receives a vast amount of military aid from the Soviet Union and is economically dependent on Moscow.

U.S. officials say the Soviet supplies are partly to blame for the poor performance of the Mujahideen on the battlefield.

The rebels have been active

around three cities — Jalalabad, Khost and Kandahar — in the eastern part of the country bordering Pakistan.

Rocket barrage

Afghanistan's government radio reported another rocket barrage on Kabul Thursday, this one killing nine people and injuring 16.

Radio Kabul, in a broadcast monitored in Islamabad, charged that guerrillas battered Kabul with 141 rockets in the past week, killing 29 people and injuring 97.

The radio blamed Thursday's rocket attack on "the opposition helped by their Pakistani masters and their masters across the ocean," meaning the United States.

On Tuesday, a rocket hit a military ammunition depot and triggered numerous explosions that lasted for hours and left one man dead.

Since last June, Kabul has been jolted by almost daily rocket attacks. Most have struck civilian areas and at least 281 people have been killed and 745 injured, according to United Nations sources.

The worst day of the recent blitz was Monday when more than 40 rockets slammed into the city.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat with Intissar Al Wazir, widow of assassinated Palestinian military commander Khalil Al Wazir and who was elected to the Fateh Central Committee this week.

Settler population up

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The population of Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories has grown by 6,500 in the past year despite the Palestinian rebellion, government figures show.

The government-run central bureau of statistics reports that the Jewish settlers remain the fastest growing group of Israelis, but the rate of their growth has slipped during the 20-month-old uprising.

Settler leaders attributed the continued growth to right-wing activists moving to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a show of Jewish resolve to hold onto the occupied lands.

Left-wing legislators, however, expressed scepticism about the figures, with critics saying some "Israelis bought homes in the occupied territories to boost population figures without mov-

ing there.

Dedi Zucker, a legislator of the left-wing Citizens Rights Movement, said the figures also do not reflect people moving out of the settlements who do not legally change their addresses.

Independent observers said the settler population may be even higher than the government figures, but most experts agreed that attempts have been made to skew the figures by leaders on both ends of the political spectrum.

The bureau of statistics reported that 66,500 Jews lived in the occupied territories at the end of 1988, an increase of 10.3 per cent over 1987.

In 1986, the year before the Palestinian uprising began, the settler population increased by 15.8 per cent.

Many attribute the slower growth to the uprising, during which there have been constant stonings and firebombing attacks on settler-owned cars.

The bureau did not survey the Palestinian population, but past figures show there are million Arabs in the West Bank and 700,000 in the Gaza Strip.

Meron Benvenisti of the independent West Bank Data Base Project said the settler population was closer to 74,000 at the end of last year, up from 67,000 in 1987.

Benvenisti said his figures were higher because the government does not take into account Israelis who move to settlements without legally changing their addresses so their children can attend better schools in Israel.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
15:50 Educational programme
15:55 News summary
16:00 Message from Iraq
16:05 A play by Shakespeare
16:10 Local programme
16:15 Programme review
16:20 News in Arabic
16:25 Consumer's Guide
16:30 Local programme
16:35 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 Couillies
18:20 News in French
18:25 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
18:30 News in Hebrew
18:35 Natural Phenomena
18:40 News in Arabic
18:45 "Allo Allo"
18:50 Saturday Variety Show
18:55 News in English
19:00 "The Kid with the 200 IQ"

PRAYER TIMES

6:42 Fajr
12:53 (Sunrise) Duha
12:51 Dhuhur
16:20 'Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 633541
Anglican Church Tel. 635363, Tel. 811295
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

There will be a drop in temperatures and rise in humidity while winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<p>19:29 Maghreb 20:54 'Isha</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440 De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 633541 Anglican Church Tel. 635363, Tel. 811295 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751 Assuan International Church Tel. 685326 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264</p> <p>WEATHER</p> <p>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology</p> <p>There will be a drop in temperatures and rise in humidity while winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and</p>	<p>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</p> <p>NIGHT DUTY</p> <p>AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Rahman Jaber 775050 Dr. Hussein Haddad 731367 Dr. Khalil Abdo 795392 Dr. Saad Abu Hatab 638642 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdous pharmacy 778336 Al Asena pharmacy 671053 Najrouh pharmacy 625672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660</p> <p>IRBID: Dr. Ali Al Omari (—) Al Sharaa pharmacy (985238)</p>	<p>EMERGENCIES</p> <p>Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate 630341 Rescue 622412/2 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 891228 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 896390 Public Security Department 63021 Hotel Complaints 605890 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage 661176 Complaints 897467 Amman Municipality 787111 Complaints 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Radio Jordan 774111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615</p>	<p>FOR THE TRAVELLER</p> <p>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</p> <p>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)5320-5 where it should always be verified.</p> <p>ARRIVALS</p> <p>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</p> <p>06:00 Agaba (RJ) 11:40 Tripoli (RJ) 12:10 Athens (RJ) 12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 12:30 Baghdad (RJ) 12:35 Geneva, Beirut (RJ) 13:00 London (RJ) 13:15 Paris (RJ) 13:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 13:45 Cairo (RJ) 16:20 Doha (RJ) 16:30 New Delhi, Bahrain (RJ) 16:35 Baghdad (RJ) 16:40 Kuwait (RJ) 16:50 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 16:55 Colombo (RJ) 16:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) 16:58 Baghdad (RJ) 16:58 New York, Montreal (RJ) 17:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)</p> <p>DEPARTURES</p> <p>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</p> <p>06:00 Agaba (RJ) 11:40 Tripoli (RJ) 12:10 Athens (RJ) 12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 12:30 Baghdad (RJ) 12:35 Geneva, Beirut (RJ) 13:00 London (RJ) 13:15 Paris (RJ) 13:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 13:45 Cairo (RJ) 16:20 Doha (RJ) 16:30 New Delhi, Bahrain (RJ) 16:35 Baghdad (RJ) 16:40 Kuwait (RJ) 16:50 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 16:55 Colombo (RJ) 16:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) 16:58 Baghdad (RJ) 16:58 New York, Montreal (RJ) 17:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)</p>
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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. envoy optimistic on Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Nello Ledsky, the U.S. State Department coordinator on Cyprus, ended a five-day visit to the war-divided island Thursday declaring he was optimistic about a settlement. "My optimism continues. What I have seen on the island still gives me the belief that a solution to the Cyprus problem is possible and progress toward it can be made in the near future," he said in a departure statement. During his stay he conferred separately with President George Vassiliou and Rauf Denktaş, the president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in north Cyprus. Ledsky also discussed the problem with political party leaders on both sides of the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone splitting the island since 1974. Ledsky's trip, which also included visits to Athens and Ankara, was officially dubbed a familiarisation visit following his recent appointment to the post of Cyprus coordinator. U.N.-sponsored peace talks between Vassiliou and Denktaş which started a year ago are deadlocked.

Chinese foreign minister to visit Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met with the Chinese ambassador in Tehran Thursday to discuss his counterpart's forthcoming visit to Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Velayati expressed his country's readiness to expand ties with the communist state. He also said the visit by China's foreign minister, Qian Qichen, will take place in early October, according to IRNA. China was one of Iran's major arms suppliers during the eight-year war with Iraq.

Wheelchair banned from Dutch motorway

AMSTERDAM (R) — A disabled Iranian who set off on a long journey home in his wheelchair was stopped by Dutch police when he tried to enter a busy motorway outside the Hague. The 30-year-old Iranian could not speak Dutch, but he indicated on a map that he was heading for Iran via Belgium, West Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Turkey. After being warned that wheelchairs were not allowed on Dutch motorways, the Iranian packed his wheelchair into a friend's van and drove off, police said.

Kurdish guerrillas attack village

CATAK, Turkey (AP) — Suspected Kurdish guerrillas raided a hamlet in the southeastern province of Van and killed two villagers, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Thursday. The agency said a group of rebels attacked Samanlı hamlet Wednesday night, shot to death two villagers including a village guard and abducted two villagers as they tried to flee. One suspected Kurdish guerrilla was killed and another wounded Thursday in a clash with the security forces near Kayatepe village 20 kilometres from the southeastern city of Adiyaman. Anatolia said in another dispatch. Anatolia reported another incident Wednesday night in which rebels abducted seven youths from Omani hamlet in Cukurca township some 150 kilometres south of Catak township where Samanlı is located.

Bourguiba has complications after surgery

TUNIS (R) — Former Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, who had a prostate operation three weeks ago, has remained in hospital because of complications, medical sources said. Bourguiba, who celebrated his 86th birthday in Tunis's Charles Nicolle Hospital Aug. 3, is suffering from urine retention because of a weak bladder, they said. French physician Daniel Beuron, who performed the operation July 19, examined Bourguiba again Tuesday and Wednesday and they flew back to France, they added. No medical bulletin has been issued.

2 U.N. soldiers wounded in S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Norwegian soldiers serving with U.N. peacekeeping forces were shot and slightly wounded by militants of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), U.N. officials said Thursday. They said a Norwegian unit in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) refused to let an SLA patrol enter an area under its control in the east of Israel's self-declared "security zone" Wednesday evening. The Norwegians demanded that the SLA men must be accompanied by Israeli soldiers. The militants then opened fire at the feet of the Norwegians, wounding two soldiers, the officials said.

Sudan jails foreigner for illegal dollars

KHARTOUM (AP) — A military court sentenced a foreign national to ten years in prison for illegal possession of \$3,200 and to another five years for attempting to bribe a police officer, according to an armed forces publication.

Al Kuwait Al Musalaha, the armed forces daily paper said the same court also handed a Sudanese man a three year jail sentence for attempting to smoke hashish in public.

The paper did not specify the foreigner's name or nationality and only said he had not abided by a government regulation ordering people to trade in their foreign currency for Sudanese pounds by July 31. He was also convicted of trying to bribe a police officer, Al Kuwait Al

Musalaha said.

Shortly after a military coup on June 31 overthrew the government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, new junta leader Lieutenant-General Omar Al Bashir said his priorities lay in reforming the economy and fighting corruption.

Among other tough measures, the junta ordered people to exchange all foreign money or face trial by a military court, and threatened the death penalty for hard-currency dealers.

Al Kuwait Al Musalaha said the same military court sentenced Osman Al Jack Mong, a southern Sudanese to three years in prison for trying to smoke hashish in a market place in the capital, Khartoum. It did not elaborate further.



Prince Mohammad visits PSD

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein called at the Public Security Department (PSD) on Thursday. The Prince is seen holding talks with PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali during the visit. (Petra photo)

Japanese, Arab economists to hold talks in Amman

SALT (Petra) — Contacts are underway to convene a meeting in Amman between Japanese and Arab economists to discuss trade and economic cooperation between the two sides, according to Mohammad Asfour, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

Asfour said that the meeting is designed to pave the way for a greater measure of Japanese-Arab economic cooperation, increasing the volume of trade and the transfer of Japanese technology to the Arab World.

During the meeting, which will be held in Amman, a separate Japanese-Jordanian meeting will be held to discuss the prospects of increasing Japanese investments in Jordan and to launch joint economic ventures employing Jordanian workforce and natural resources, Asfour said.

Altogether, 30 experts and uni-

versity teachers from Japan and 20 Arab experts will be involved in the projected meeting for which a date is still to be fixed, Asfour added.

Asfour Thursday chaired a meeting by the federation's executive council which was held at Salt.

He delivered the main address revealing that the federation has recently submitted a memorandum to the cabinet pinpointing the main areas where the private sector can increase its activities to stimulate the national economy.

The federation is constantly coordinating matters with the Ministry of Labour in order to find a solution to the country's unemployment problem and has opened offices to find jobs for Jordanians, Asfour noted.

Several subjects related to export and import operations were discussed at the meeting.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ZAWAIDEH IN CAIRO: Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh arrived in Cairo Friday to participate in the three-day meetings of Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of housing due to open here Saturday. The ministers will discuss working papers dealing with cooperation in the field of housing, exchange of information and expertise in this field, holding seminars, and coordination of the ACC member countries' positions in international conferences. Upon arrival in Cairo, Zawaideh was received by Egyptian Minister of Housing Hasaballah Al Kafrawi, and the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo. (Petra)

BADRAN CHAIRS HIGHER COUNCIL MEETING: The Higher Council for Agriculture held a meeting Thursday under the chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture Dr. Adnan Badran and discussed production of chicken and eggs. The discussions dealt with maintaining self-sufficiency in production of chicken and eggs where the monthly need of chicken stands at 5,000 tonnes and the annual need of eggs in 400 million eggs. (Petra)

RJ, JAL DISCUSS COOPERATION: A delegation representing Jordan Air Lines (JAL) has held talks with Royal Jordanian (RJ) senior officials dealing with reinforcing and developing cooperation in the field of aviation. (Petra)

PASSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADS END TALKS: Jordan as well as 17 other Arab countries have participated in the fourth Arab conference of heads of the emigration, passport, and nationalities departments which concluded in Tunis Friday. The three-day conference called on the Arab countries to develop cooperation so as to forestall forging to passports and to undertake measures necessary to prevent terrorism. It also called for consolidating security measures at airports to attain national security. (Petra)

JORDAN TO ATTEND APU TALKS: A Jordanian delegation representing the Post offices and the Postal Savings Corporation left Amman Thursday to participate in the meetings of the executive council of the Arab Postal Union (APU) due to convene in Dubai Saturday. The discussions will deal with the Arab and international postal services and matters related to the joint Arab postal services. (Petra)

FUEL CONSUMPTION FOR ELECTRICITY: The amount of fuel consumed in the electricity sector during the first quarter of 1989 stood at 198,480 tonnes of heavy fuel, 4,160 tonnes of diesel and 5,858 cubic metres of natural gas. (Petra)

Anniversary celebrated

(Continued from page 1)

appreciation of the endeavours of the Jordanian industrialists and their contribution to the national economy.

The exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Industry and Trade on the occasion of King Hussein's accession to the throne, is designed to orient the Jordanian public on the various industries in Jordan and encourage people to opt for locally manufactured products.

Present with the King at the inauguration ceremony were Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, senior officials, cabinet members, businessmen and members of the diplomatic mis-

sions in Jordan.

King Hussein has received congratulatory cables from world leaders on the occasion of his accession to the throne.

In their cables, the leaders conveyed good wishes to the King in leading Jordan toward further progress and prosperity.

The cables were sent by the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Oman, Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen, Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, South Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Bangladesh, Maldives, the United States, France, Philippines, and the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Amman.

Banker's whereabouts unknown

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Petra Bank and its former director-general, Ahmad Chalabi, moved into the limelight again Friday with strong speculation that the ex-head of the beleaguered bank may have defied a possible government order asking him to remain in the country.

"Chalabi has not been seen by anyone for the past 48 hours, and our official records show that he has not left Jordan via legitimate channels," an official source quoted by Reuters said.

Information available to the Jordan Times indicated that the last time Chalabi was seen in Amman was early Tuesday morning at his residence, where he maintained an "open house" for all interested in visiting him after he was removed from the top job at Petra Bank.

Meanwhile a close associate of Chalabi was detained by security forces at the Queen Alia International Airport as he was about to board a flight to London, according to informed sources. The sources said that Ali Saraf, who was chief dealer at Petra Bank, was being questioned Friday.

Chalabi, an Iraqi-born banker who sky-rocketed into prominence in banking circles in a relatively short period, was removed from his job as director-general of Petra Bank last week as a result of a merger with the Jordan Gulf Bank ordered by the Economic Security Committee. But he

was retained on a six-member team appointed by the authorities to supervise the merger.

An informed source said Chalabi did not attend a pre-scheduled meeting of the merger supervisory team Thursday. "There was a quorum for the meeting, however, and the meeting was held despite Chalabi's absence," added the source, who requested anonymity.

"These are rumours (that Chalabi has fled the country), and I refuse to comment on rumours," Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi told the Jordan Times in a brief telephone interview Friday.

Sources in the new management of the merged entity have confirmed that Chalabi was asked not to leave the country in a move described as "routine" by some officials. "We want them to be here in Amman when we have to find answers to our questions," said a senior source at Petra Bank last week.

The Central Bank's decision to merge the two banks was "a preemptive move to prevent the collapse of the two banks which would have damaged the economy," Nabulsi said last Friday.

For three days prior to his "disappearance," Chalabi kept an "open house" for bankers, businessmen, journalists and friends in what was seen as a move to squash rumours that he was under "house arrest." The banker claimed, in private remarks to several sources, that he was the "victim of a

conspiracy."

The question that arises if Chalabi indeed did leave the country is how he managed his departure? If Chalabi was under orders not to leave the country then his name was or should have been on all departure points in less than three hours after the orders were issued, according to an official source at the Public Security Department (PSD). The official could not confirm that Chalabi did leave the country nor that the banker's name appeared on any black list.

Another senior Petra Bank management source who also could not confirm Chalabi had skipped town said: "I do not know whether he has left the country, but it would seem possible."

Someone who identified herself as a maid at the Chalabi residence answered Jordan Times' queries by saying only that she did not know the whereabouts of the banker.

In a related development, Nabulsi also refused comment Friday on "rumours" that another merger of two local banks was in the offing. "Until we have something official for you, these would remain rumours," he said.

A senior official at the Cairo Amman Bank, asked to comment Thursday whether his bank was one of the banks under a merger consideration, said: "I also have heard the rumours, but we have not been told anything officially."

"At this moment nothing is going on," the official added.

Aqaba hospital gets dialysis unit

AQABA (Petra) — A dialysis unit for the benefit of kidney patients in the southern areas of Jordan was opened Thursday at the Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, honorary chairman of the Friends of the Kidney Patients Society attended the inauguration ceremony and heard a briefing on services offered to Jordanian kidney patients at Jordanian hospitals which are operated by the National Medical Institute (NMI).

Dr. Mohammad Lawzi from

NMI, who presented the briefing, said that a total of JD 2 million is expected to be spent on the treatment of kidney patients in the Kingdom during 1989, rising to JD 3 million in 1991.

A total of 465 patients are currently benefiting from the dialysis services at different Jordanian hospitals and were given free of charge, Lawzi noted.

The cost of such treatment is rising, he said, in view of the fact that each patient has to take several treatment sessions a week at the rate of four hours each.

The opening of a dialysis unit

in Aqaba, he said, is bound to save a lot of trouble for the patients who used to travel to Amman and other areas to obtain the necessary treatment.

Dialysis units are now found in Amman's Al Bashir and the University hospitals, Zarqa, Irbid and Mafrqa in addition to the dialysis equipment installed at military hospitals and the new one in Aqaba, according to Lawzi.

He said that the Aqaba dialysis unit has been donated by the Friends of the Kidney Patients Society in Jordan and it cost JD 10,000.

Palestinians thank Jordan for reopening PNF HQ in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Palestine National Fund (PNF) Jaweed Al Ghusseini has sent a cable to Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker expressing the Palestinian leadership's appreciation to Jordan for its approval to reopening the PNF headquarters in Amman.

In his cable, Ghusseini said that the Palestinian leadership is deeply gratified for the decision and feels grateful to His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government.

Ghusseini had said that the headquarters will be officially inaugurated by the end of next week when Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat visits Amman for talks with King Hussein.

The reopening of the PNF headquarters in Amman will reflect positively on the Palestinian

people inside the Israeli occupied territories, Ghusseini said in a statement in Abu Dhabi.

Jordan closed the PNF headquarters in Amman on July 7, 1986, but the PNF maintained an office and continued to work under the umbrella of the Am-

man-based Palestine National Council (PNC) and kept two other offices in Tunis and Cairo.

The reopening of the PNF headquarters in Amman is seen by observers as a further step towards strengthening Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Amman trade committee discusses government measures

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Amin has said that the financial, monetary, and economic measures the Jordanian government has adopted are designed to restore economic balance, promote investment atmosphere, increase self-reliance, and reduce the gap between imports and exports in a

way to achieve rationalisation in consumption.

Addressing the trade committee in the Amman region Thursday, Amin said that the periodic meetings of the committee had an effective role in the embodiment of decentralised administrative policy and developing direct contacts with the concerned sectors.

National Committee for Culture discusses strategy for next decade

AMMAN (Petra) — A national committee on cultural development met in Amman Thursday to discuss steps to be taken in implementing cultural activities over the coming decade.

A statement said later that the committee agreed to lay down a strategy in the light of a working paper to be prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Informa-

tion which will be discussed next Thursday.

The statement said that the strategy is designed to give impetus to the cultural movement in Jordan, enhance the national cultural identity and encourage further work by Jordanian writers and intellectuals.

It said that the coming meeting will be attended by representa-

tives of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Jordanian Artists Federation, and other concerned departments, as well as the committee members.

Thursday's meeting was attended by representatives of a number of ministries, the four Jordanian universities and the Jordanian Writers Federation.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday meets the summer music camp at the National Music Conservatory and the participants of the second conservatory in Amman (Petra photo)

Queen Noor attends closing ceremony of 2nd music camp

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday attended a ceremony marking the closure of the second summer music camp organised by the National Music Conservatory which is affiliated to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

A total of 85 children aged between five and 15 attended the 10-day camp held at the conservatory in Amman.

The participating children played before the Queen during the ceremony which was also attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Raya Bint Al Hussein and Mrs. Hind Naser, the con-

servatory's president, as well as the Bulgarian and Japanese ambassadors, relatives and parents of the children.

Conservatory Director Kifah Fakhouri headed the eight-member staff that taught the children music reading, writing and ear-training.

The children also received lessons in playing the recorder and playing simple percussion instruments according to Orff's principles.

Carl Orff is a German composer and music educator who established his principles in playing simple percussion instruments in-

tegrated with speech and movement.

The first summer music camp held in August 1988 was attended by 120 children.

According to Fakhouri, the conservatory, which opened its doors in 1986, provided training in the initial stage, to 45 children aged six to 12, but soon grew in numbers of children began to grow and the conservatory is now providing proper training to 180 children. The number of teachers and instructors in 1988 was growing to 22 at present, Fakhouri added.

ACC ministers begin talks on cultural cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in meetings by ministers of culture and information in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries which opened in Baghdad Friday.

Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali, who arrived in the Iraqi capital Thursday at the head of the Jordanian delegation, is expected to present Jordan's views with regards to steps taken by the ACC in coordinating information and cultural activities.

Majali, who is accompanied by representatives of the various departments associated with his ministry including radio and television, will discuss with his colleagues from Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen a joint plan for information and cultural activities

within the ACC group, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to the North Yemeni information minister, who is taking part in the meetings, a total of four working papers will be reviewed in Baghdad in the course of preparing the joint strategy.

Ahmad Lawzi said that the ministers will also discuss the prospect of setting up ACC information network to ensure the flow of new programmes and other informational and cultural material.

Cooperation in housing

Jordan is also taking part in an ACC meeting in Cairo starting Saturday to coordinate the four countries cooperation in housing

and reconstruction.

Minister of Housing and Public Works Shafiq Zawaideh headed Jordan's delegation to the three-day meeting where several working papers dealing with construction business, contracting specifications will be discussed.

Meanwhile, the Amman Chamber of Industry announced Thursday that it has finalised draft statute for a higher council that would govern chambers of commerce and industry federations in the four ACC countries.

A chamber official said that the draft will be put for discussion with representatives from the ACC countries in Cairo before the end of this month.

The meeting in Cairo will be followed up to one held in Amman last May by the chambers federations in the four countries.



Health Minister Zuhair Malhas and his Libyan counterpart Mustafa Al Zairi Thursday begin talks in Amman (Petra photo)

Jordan, Libya discuss employment of doctors, cooperation in health

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Libya Thursday opened talks on coordinating their efforts in health and cooperating in the pharmaceutical industry.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas and Libyan Health Minister Mustafa Al Zairi headed their teams to the talks which also are intended to organise the employment of Jordanian physicians and specialists in Libyan hospitals.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the two sides discussed in the opening session bilateral cooperation in primary health care, pharmaceutical production,

marketing and distribution of medicines, the production of vaccines and giving priority in Libya and Jordan to medicines produced by both country.

They also discussed exchanges of visits by officials, medical experts and doctors, exchange of medical and health expertise, unification of laws and regulations covering health security and providing medical treatment to patients from both country," Petra said.

Libya is already employing a large number of Jordanian doctors and the current four-day

talks will cover matters related to the prospective employment of further numbers, according to the agency.

Upon his arrival for the visit earlier Thursday, the Libyan health minister said that the talks will be within the framework of cooperation programme between Jordan and Libya, and in line with directives by the Arab Health Ministers Council.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas and other Health Ministry officials welcomed the Libyan delegation upon arrival at the airport.

Workshops on new trends in curricula development, teaching chemistry ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two workshops on new trends in curricula development as well as instructions in chemistry and biology ended in Amman on Thursday.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) has organised the workshops as part of the on-going preparations for the opening of the Jubilee School in 1991.

A total of 30 participants from the ministry of education, the private sector, Jordanian universities and other departments took part in the six-day workshops during which they discussed new trends in teaching chemistry and biology, modern methods in teaching with special attention to promote self-education among

children and develop their skills. The two workshops which were organised in cooperation with the British Council and the Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh, Scotland, were aimed at paving the way for the opening of the Jubilee School which is designed as a model secondary school for gifted students.

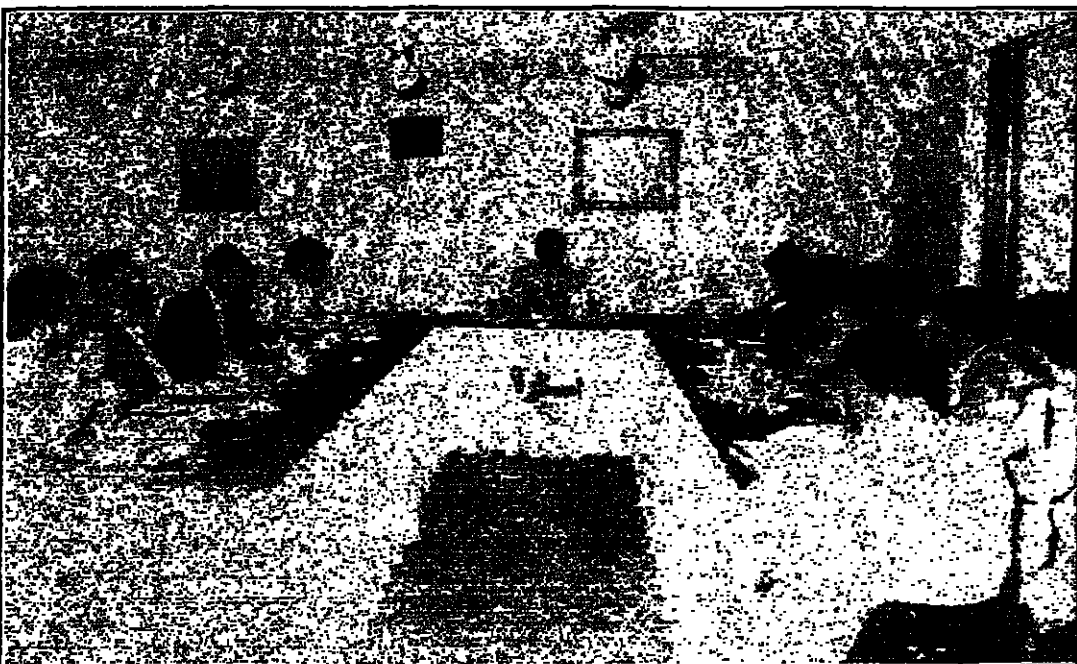
WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

★ A plastic art exhibition by Jordanian Artist Maha Abu Ayyash at the Plastic Artists Association, Shamsiul — 5:00 p.m.



The National Committee for Culture Thursday meets in Amman (Petra photo)

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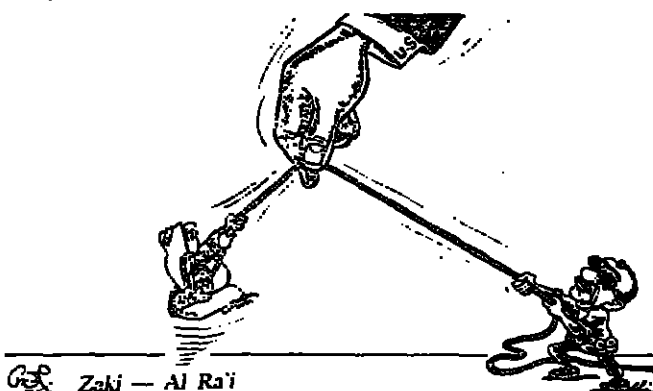
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Division tactics

THE ABDUCTION of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid by Israel has set in motion a series of actions and reactions which in the end upstaged the hitherto active debate on the peace process in the Middle East. And the subsequent killing of Lt. Col. William Higgins not only diverted attention from the heart of the matter in the broader Arab-Israeli conflict but also undermined the burgeoning sympathy for the Palestinian cause in Western countries especially in the U.S. All these developments could not have been fortuitous but rather the result of a well calculated Israeli plan to abort the growing support for the Palestinians in their struggle for freedom and self-determination. And as long as the hostages' issue stays in the limelight and preoccupies the attention of international diplomacy, the Palestine question would end up paying the price. That is why a more determined effort must be made to rechannel interest and concern towards the central issue of the Palestinian case and away from the side issue of hostages. Of course the best way to achieve just that is to speedup the resolution of the hostages problem to the satisfaction of the maximum number of the actors involved.

With reference to the particular case of the kidnapping of Sheikh Obeid, it is highly questionable that Israel acted out of concern for its own men still under the custody of Shi'ite elements in Lebanon. With all the meticulous intelligence capabilities demonstrated by Israel in abducting one of the principal leaders of the Shi'ite movement in Lebanon, one would have thought it would have been easier for Israel to free its own trapped soldiers than to aim for one of the biggest and hardest catches in Lebanon. That would lead one to speculate that Israel deliberately wanted to exacerbate the hostages' issue not out of concern for the three Israeli soldiers but rather for something much more far reaching. The Arab and Islamic attention must therefore focus on frustrating the Israeli design but not falling into its trap. Unfortunately the killing of Col. Higgins played into the hands of Israel and promoted its objectives and aspirations. Accordingly the sooner the hostages' issue is finished and done with the sooner the actors in the Palestinian case can get back to where they have left off.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Jordanian Arabic dailies commented on the ongoing intifada in the occupied Arab territories which has now entered its 21st month. Al Ra'i daily said that the continued uprising against occupation is part of the Palestinian endeavour to regain Arab land usurped since 1967 and the repressive measures have not and cannot stem the resistance. The paper said that neither Shamir's elections plans nor the various Zionist manoeuvres can deviate the course of the uprising and end the struggle for freedom. The Palestinian people's rights, the paper added, have been supported by the world community at large and the European countries which bear a heavy political weight worldwide in particular, and the Shamir plan has died while the uprising continues to survive, the paper continued. It said what the Palestinians are doing is legitimate, and what Jordan and the Arab countries are offering to help the Palestinians is a national duty. The Arabs, the paper added, are seeking peace based on justice and an end to oppression and occupation, and Jordan has been spearheading efforts on the Arab and the international levels to achieve that goal. If Israel has not yet absorbed the intifada lesson so far, the paper concluded, nothing can stop the Palestinians from maintaining the struggle or Jordan's support and assistance to the oppressed people, regardless of Israel's conspiracies and economic pressure on this country.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily calls on the Jordanian people to adjust to the present situation and try to live within their own means so that they can overcome their present economic and financial problems. Tareq Masarweh says that Jordanians have to put their own house in order as a first step and curtail their expenditure so that sufficient funds can be saved for development. The rich Arab states have never stopped extending financial assistance to Jordan, and will never stop doing that, but the Kingdom ought to adopt reasonable fiscal budgets and continue to curtail expenses and stop thinking of becoming the Singapore of the Middle East, the writer continues. We should know the real size of our country, its potentials and responsibilities, and we should realise that we belong to the Third World which means that we are poor, the writer adds. But, he says, these facts should not deter us from continuing the struggle for development within our means and limited resources.

Al Dustour daily commented on the Palestinian uprising and said that after 20 months, resistance to occupation has become a way of life for the Palestinian people. The paper noted that the oppressed people who are armed only with stones and faith in God, are turning the tables on the Israeli oppressors who are equipped with all forms of diabolical weapons. The uprising, said the paper, has exposed Israel's ugly image to the whole world, won further support for the rights of the Arab people of Palestine and caused deep divisions within the Israeli society and political leaders. Above all, it said, the continued resistance has won the Palestinians the sympathy and the support of all nations.

Hardliners under pressure to lift martial law in Peking

By Guy Dimmore
Reuters

PEKING — China's Communist hardliners are weighing the consequences of lifting martial law in Peking in the face of passive protests, scattered resistance and huge financial losses, foreign diplomats said this week.

"A simmering rebellion" was how two diplomats described China after a recent tour of major cities.

The lifting of martial law is believed to be a major discussion point among Chinese leaders plying back and forth between Peking and the coastal resort of Beidaihe, where senior leader Deng Xiaoping is spending the summer.

"As usual, different factions will have different ideas," a Western diplomat commented. Premier Li Peng declared mar-

tial law in Peking on May 20 after the biggest anti-government protests since the 1949 revolution drew more than a million people into the streets.

Unarmed crowds blocked the first wave of troops on the edges of the city but two weeks later columns of tanks, trucks and armoured personnel carriers crashed through protestors to put down the student-led democracy movement in Tiananmen Square.

The tanks have gone but the vast square is still closed to pedestrians and armed troops patrol the city.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Although sceptical of claims by exiled dissidents that there is an organised underground opposition, residents say there is widespread passive resistance to the martial law authorities and un-

confirmed accounts of isolated attacks on soldiers.

One diplomat quoted an official internal document as saying four soldiers were strangled to death in a park in mid-July.

Shots are occasionally heard at night when main streets are mostly deserted, apart from military patrols. Some residents suspect snipers, a new breed of urban guerrilla, are at work. Others believe nervous soldiers are letting off warning shots.

A defence attaché recounted how a soldier was shot dead by a child on July 15 after he gave him his gun to play with.

City spokesmen refuse to comment on anything about the army but official reports say many weapons were stolen on June 3 and 4 when the People's Liberation Army, acting on Deng's orders, took control of the city. If any soldiers have been killed

since June 4, their deaths have not been made public. But in an unusual admission of dissent, the official economic daily said earlier this month that a man "with a crafty smile" had offered poisoned water to thirsty soldiers on patrol. "They saw through his plot."

Travellers on Peking's subway said that on one occasion recently they were suddenly plunged into darkness to find anti-government leaflets on the train when the lights came back on. A foreign resident said he found a pro-democracy leaflet in his mail.

Japan Airlines and the Japanese consulate in the northern city of Shenyang have received death threats aimed at businessmen from a previously unknown organisation which says it wants to sabotage China's foreign trade.

But for the overwhelming

majority of the 10 million Chinese in Peking any protest at all is passive.

Residents say that anyone linked to the democracy movement must give an account of his life since April 15, the day former leader Hu Yaobang died, triggering the protests.

"But I know my boss well. He'll just turn a blind eye as long as I don't do anything else," a factory worker said. Teachers who must "show their attitude" at meetings supervised by outside inspection teams say the process is a farce.

For many workers, passive protests mean slipping back into the old habits of turning up late, taking frequent sick leave and pursuing their second job — perhaps running a private stall — with much more enthusiasm. "They are under enormous

pressure to lift martial law," a Western diplomat commented. "With hardly any tourists coming, they also stand in loss over a billion dollars."

Apart from the loss of foreign visitors, China's struggling economy is already suffering from a lack of new loans which were suspended after the unrest.

"Lifting martial law would be a signal to the outside world to think about business again," an Asian banker said.

A Western diplomat said a police officer told him "martial law won't last very long." An Asian colleague quoted informed Chinese sources as saying it could be lifted by the end of the year.

The authorities' confidence will be tested on Oct. 1 when Communist China marks the 40th anniversary of its founding.

IRA is a small but sharp thorn in Britain's side

By Jeffrey Heller
Reuters

LONDON — Since British soldiers went into Northern Ireland 20 years ago, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has been a thorn in Britain's side, drawing blood with bombs and bullets in a campaign to oust the troops.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who narrowly escaped IRA assassination in 1984, has vowed to defeat the group she has branded as terrorist.

But security chiefs concede the war between the active service units of the estimated 250 guerrillas force and 10,000 British troops in Northern Ireland may never be won.

Some 3,000 people, including more than 400 soldiers, have been killed and 30,000 wounded — mainly in Northern Ireland — since the deployment of troops on August 14, 1969, in response to

violence between the Protestant majority and Catholic minority in the British province.

British soldiers in combat gear, fearful of snipers, still dart in and out of doorways in Northern Ireland's capital of Belfast amid shoppers and mothers pushing prams.

It is a surreal sight in a city within the European Community. The current wave of what is known in Northern Ireland as "the troubles" began in 1969 when the province exploded in strife between its 500,000 Catholics and the one-million-strong Protestant majority that favours union with Britain.

Asked to rate the IRA's effectiveness as a guerrilla group, Don Kerr of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London said one of its main strengths was its wealth of experience fighting the British.

The IRA used guerrilla attacks

in the struggles of the 1920s after partition when the Independent Irish Republic was formed and the six counties of the north continued their union with Britain.

In 1939, the IRA launched a series of bombings in England and continued its activities against the British during World War II. It went into eclipse after the war but burst into activity again from 1956 to 1962.

Over the last year the IRA has renewed a bombing campaign in Britain, blowing up two army barracks and killing one soldier. Since last summer five British troops have been killed in IRA attacks in West Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Security sources in Dublin say up to 20 IRA guerrillas are poised in Britain and Europe for an offensive to mark the 20th anniversary this summer of troop deployment in Northern Ireland.

Cross-border security cooperation between Britain and the Irish Republic in fighting the IRA was stepped up in 1985 when both countries signed an agreement giving Dublin a voice in Northern Ireland affairs.

The deal has shakily survived despite its inherent vulnerability to the mutual suspicion between Dublin and London and nationalist allegations that British troops and police wage a shoot-to-kill policy in Ulster.

Britain denies its security forces kill IRA fighters rather than try to capture them. It refused to prosecute police involved in the killing of six alleged guerrillas, mostly unarmed, who were shot in several incidents in 1982.

In the 1970s the IRA carried out a wave of attacks in Britain, including bombings in two pubs in the central city of Birmingham in which 21 were killed and more

than 180 injured.

Declaring "one bomb in London is worth 100 in Belfast," the IRA killed 11 cavalry troops and bandmen in Hyde Park and Regent's Park in 1982.

Six people died when an IRA car bomb exploded near London's Harrods department store in 1983.

The IRA staged its most spectacular attack in Britain in 1984 when a bomb planted in a hotel in the southern town of Brighton nearly wiped out Thatcher's government during a Conservative Party conference. Five people were killed.

In 1987 an IRA bomb ripped through crowds in the Northern Ireland town of Enniskillen during a ceremony honouring the dead of two world wars. Eleven died.

Security chiefs believe the IRA has a stockpile of weapons that may include Libyan-supplied

ground-to-air missiles for use against British helicopters in Northern Ireland.

Official statistics give a total of 413,459 pounds (187,936 kg) of explosives uncovered in the province since 1969.

There have been almost 6,900 explosions in the last 20 years. Security forces also discovered 622 machineguns, 3,861 rifles, 4,187 pistols, 1,366 shotguns, 54 rocket launchers, 151 mortars, two flamethrowers and 1.4 million rounds of ammunition.

Experts say the guerrilla group has plenty of money to pay for the arsenal.

"They are a very profitable organisation along the lines of the Mafia," Kerr said, mentioning IRA extortion rackets and bank robberies as well as funding by supporters in the United States.

The growing force of people power

By Gene Sharp

A MILLION Chinese citizens in the streets of Beijing block the army's approach to Tiananmen Square. Striking coal miners in Siberia and the Ukraine win political concessions from the Soviet government. After nine years Solidarity gains its legalisation and stands on the verge of taking over political power in Poland. These are just a few of the amazing events of past months in which people power has taken centre stage in the fight for political rights.

The popular view that non-violent struggle is a thing of the past, as typified by the Gandhian movements in India and the U.S. civil rights struggles, is clearly a misconception. The notion that non-violent struggle can work only under democratic conditions, or with a fervent moral or religious commitment to "non-violence", or only when led by charismatic leaders, is not borne out by the many cases we see today. The days when non-violent struggle could be relegated to a political ghetto are over.

There is a long, highly important (but little known) history of non-violent struggle that covers many centuries and all continents. Since the second world war, and especially in the past

five years, this technique has been practised on a politically significant scale in such diverse countries as Poland, Burma, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), Yugoslavia, Romania, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Sudan, Morocco, South Africa, the West Bank and Gaza, Chile, the Philippines, China, South Korea, the United States, Brazil, Thailand, India, Pakistan, Panama, Argentina, Iran and Tibet.

Today, people power is prominent throughout much of the Soviet Union, where many people assumed it would be impossible. In Mexico there is currently no significant problem of terrorism or guerrilla opposition, as all extreme dissent is now expressed through non-violent action such as civil disobedience, hunger strikes and land invasions.

In addition, non-violent resistance is officially finding its way into national defence policies. In 1986 the Swedish Parliament unanimously added a small non-violent resistance component to Sweden's "total defence" policy. Yugoslavia, Switzerland and Austria officially have similar components, and the possibility is under serious discussion in Norway.

We should not be surprised at the increasing power wielded by non-violent struggle. Indeed, it is

that great power which frightens autocratic rulers. The brutality of the killings in Beijing on June 4 are in part a reflection of the degree to which China's rulers saw their power and control threatened.

It is a common misconception that if resisters remain non-violent, their opponents will do the same. In 1905, troops opened fire on a crowd of Russian citizens attempting to present a petition to the Tsar. Hundreds died. In 1919, troops under British command massacred at least 530 peaceful protesters in Amritsar, India. And as happened with tsarist rule and the British Raj, such brutality is now likely to speed the end of the delegitimised Chinese Communist system.

It is a further error to assume that a violent crackdown of a non-violent resistance movement signals its defeat. Solidarity fought on for nine years despite mass arrests, legal prohibitions, martial law and other repression. After troops used chemical weapons this April on non-violent protesters in Soviet Georgia, thousands of Georgians have been demonstrating daily in Tbilisi demanding secession from the USSR. And even in Beijing there are signs that the non-violent struggle continues, though in less

public ways.

Repression is often likely precisely because people power strikes at the heart of politically repressive systems. All regimes, no matter how dictatorial, depend on power sources within the society they rule. Legitimacy, bureaucracies, habits of obedience, economic resources, police and troops, and skills and knowledge: all these pillars of political power are dependent on the co-operation of multitudes of people. The crux of non-violent action is that massive non-co-operation is that massive non-co-operation that dissolves these pillars of power.

Non-violent struggle is active, not passive. It rests on the very human capacity to be at times stubborn, cussed and even obnoxious, collectively applied. It does not require belief in pacifism or ethical non-violence, but instead has been used overwhelmingly by ordinary people still believed in violence under other circumstances. This technique can apply pressure, coerce and even disintegrate hostile regimes.

People power is comprised of an entire armoury of non-violent weapons. They include non-violent protests (such as vigils, marches, flying forbidden flags), social boycotts, economic boycotts, labour strikes, more than 50 types

of political non-co-operation, and non-violent intervention (from hunger strikes and sit-ins to the creation of parallel governments).

The old way of dismissing this type of struggle as irrelevant was to say: "I could never have worked against Hitler." However, non-violent struggle was used against the Nazis, especially in Norway, Denmark, and the Netherlands. It contributed to saving the Bulgarian Jews. Even in Berlin in 1943, an around the clock, nine-day, demonstration by non-Jewish wives and friends of arrested Jewish men saved about 1,500 from the gas chambers.

All this has major implications. If we are to develop the technique of non-violent struggle, as we have the techniques of guerrilla, conventional and nuclear warfare, it will require a tremendous increase in research, policy studies, and strategic analyses. Eventually, such research could result in non-violent methods being applied to specific tasks for which many people now believe only violence and war offer realistic options. These include liberation from dictatorships, ending systems of social oppression, defeating attempted coups d'etat and providing national defence.

In a world of grave domestic and international conflicts, with some dictatorships entrenched and new ones likely to arise, where racial, cast and class oppression is widespread, where violence is widely accepted by both terrorists and nuclear deterrence strategists as the ultimate power, something has to change.

The answer is not a naive wish that the world will become loving and co-operative, that a utopia and universal peace will descend among us if only we believe hard enough. Rather, the answer lies in further developing the people power approach to conflict, an alternative to both violence and submission. People need an effective means for waging struggles against injustices, dictatorships, genocide and oppression. They need a way of asserting their demands without destroying all they wish to preserve. People power may be their choice.

— The Guardian

• Gene Sharp is president of the Albert Einstein Institution in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and directs the Programme on Non-violent Sanctions at Harvard University's Centre for International Affairs. Author of several books on non-violent struggle, he visited Beijing during the student protests and has just returned from Israel and the West Bank.

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Treating intifada children

By Jon Inman

AN AMBULANCE pulled into the driveway, sirens wailing, just as Dr. Wahib Dajani would normally be leaving for home at around 6.30 p.m. He watched the stretcher being pulled out, sighed and made a note to call his wife. "She'll understand, she's a doctor too," he said, and went off to prepare the operating theatre.

Dajani is a man under pressure, sometimes of his own making. At home he listens to Radio 4, the BBC World service news at 7 p.m., and at 8 p.m. he switches back and forth among the Voice of America, Kol Israel news in English and Jordan TV news in Arabic. At 9.30 a.m. he listens to VOA's news atures on the Middle East. Shortly afterwards, the exhausted oesthetologist goes to bed, but says he has trouble sleeping. e has to take pills for stomach idity.

He travels through Jerusalem ery day, but sees the Israeli-Palestinian conflict only from a lestinian hospital and his home. Beit Jalla, near Bethlehem, is Hebrew is not good enough, id he is too busy, to follow aeli society closely. "A simple bourer who works in an Israeli ctory and uses Hebrew every day ans Hebrew faster than we ctors do."

As chief of intensive care as all as anesthesia at Makassed amic Hospital on the Mount of lves, Dajani is in charge of onitoring the patients' vital ctions on the operating table d overseeing their progress.

The 25-year-old TV repairman heeled into the theatre this par- evening had been struck in e right leg by a plastic bullet e right of the knee.

The perfectly round enter ound was clearly little larger an a match head. The exit ound on the left of the knee ud have accommodated a utchbox. The young man ed out to be from Beit Jalla, e Dajani, but they did not ow each other. He said a sol- ad hit him, he had hit him ck, and the soldier had fired. o dum dum bullets have been e," Dajani says. Plastic bullets e bad enough.

Although a plastic bullet ight sound like a toy, and o bigger than a piece from a cket chess set, the operation to air the damage it caused took arly six hours as doctors per- med a vein graft.

The prognosis was that the TV- pairman would be unable to d his knee fully, would lose e control over his right foot as e popliteal nerve was damaged, d would suffer a permanent up due to an expected two- metre shrinkage of his leg. Dajani at 52 has the young face a man who desperately wants

to see the funny side of life. But he holds his feelings in check behind his nervous energy. He pinches his bed-ridden patients on the cheek like an uncle, and helps himself to fruit their relatives have brought to their bed- sides. "This is more home than hospital for them," he explains, "and it is important that I act like one of them."

As an Arab Muslim doctor, married to a European Christian doctor, Dajani says he finds it difficult to understand national or religious hatreds. The Dajani hamula, one of Jerusalem's prominent clans, were the care- takers of King David's Tomb on Mt. Zion before 1948, when they called it Nebi Daoud. They were little known for their politics, he says, but were well known as merchants and doctors. The for- mer Zahalon hospital in Jaffa, he points out, was called the Dajani hospital before 1948.

Of 740 intifada casualties reg- istered at Makassed from Dec. 9, 1987 to July 31, 1989, about 480 were shot in a limb, usually a leg, estimates Dajani's colleague, chief orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Rustom Nammani; 25 per cent were under 16 years old. Six legs have been amputated; about 100 intifada patients have been in intensive care.

Financed by Kuwait and other Gulf States, Makassed is a refer- ral hospital for other private hos- pitals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and therefore receives many of the more serious casualties. It has 180 beds. Intifada casualties represent less than 4 per cent of admissions, but they take up 15 per cent of the beds because they tend to stay longer than other patients, Dajani says.

Some of the long-term patients include those with apparently simple leg injuries. They are kept in hospital because shattered bones take longer to heal than clean fractures and, if neglected, can prey to infection or dam- age. The limbs are locked with constantly adjusted metal exter- nal fixators. Makassed is the only hospital in the occupied territor- ies to use them, Nammani says.

Dr. Nammani estimates that between 800 to 1,000 of those wounded during the intifada have been left with permanent disabili- ties, mostly from bullets. (Intifa- da casualty figures fluctuate wild- ly, but UNRWA says that in Gaza 5,651 people were wounded by bullets from Dec. 9, 1987 to July 1 this year. It has no reliable estimates for the West Bank, but they are likely to be a little higher, making about 12,000 in all). Of the permanently disabled casualties, 60 to 80 are quadriple- gics, paraplegics or hemiplegics, Nammani says.

Some of the disabled do not require operations, but were sent to Makassed where they have lain for months. "We cannot

send them home — their families don't always know how to look after them. Sometimes they go home and have to be brought back. But they need to be reha- bilitated, not hospitalised," Dajani says.

The solution will eventually be found in the 36-bed Ramallah Rehabilitation Centre which is scheduled for completion by November and awaits only formal authorisation from the civil admin- istration to take admissions. Fi- nanced by the Swedish govern- ment, it will be staffed for its first year by Swedish physiotherapists who will train local staff.

Dajani has only once surren- dered, he says, to the pressure of treating young people with bullet wounds. That was when a 16- year-old was brought in, his brain exposed by a bullet which had opened his skull. It was not the wound, but the satchel, resembling his nine-year-old son's schoolbag, which caused him to lose his composure for a few minutes. The youth recovered.

In Dajani's experience, a pa- tient's relatives are usually more trying than the patient. When a young villager is shot and wound- ed, half the village may visit. If the victim is clinically dead, tell- ing the villagers so soon after the incident could start emotional scenes difficult to control.

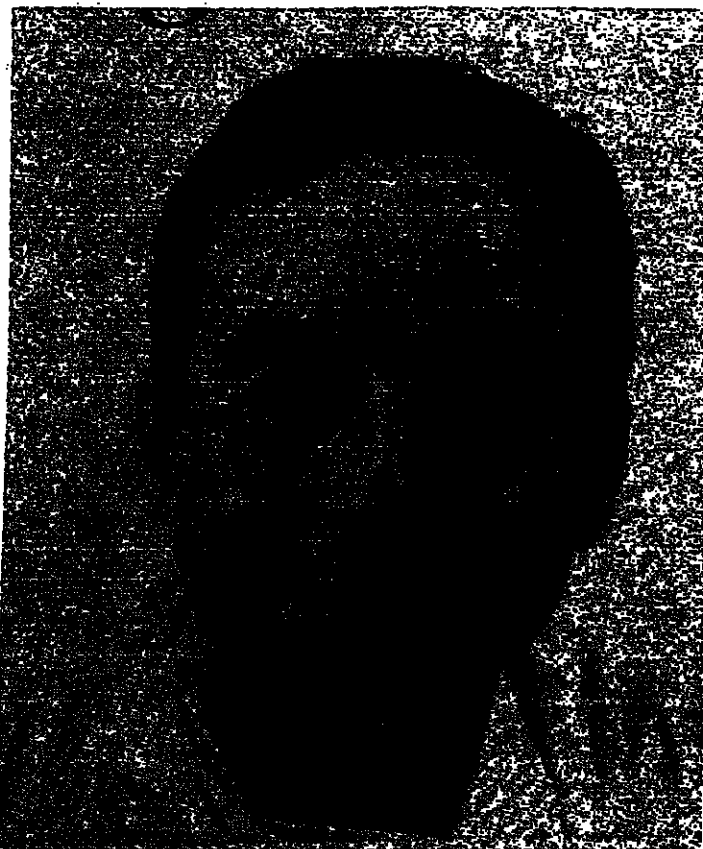
However, the respirator to which a brain-dead man must legally be hooked while his heart still beats, gives the impression of life to relatives and serves to cushion the blow of death. Usually it takes a few days for the heart to stop. By the time the "wavy green line on the monitor has slowly flattened out, so have the hopes and excite- ment of the family," says Dajani.

One such youth, Tarek Awad, 17, from Idna lay surrounded by friends. Nothing stirred except the small Palestinian flag and Koran which had been placed on his mechanically heaving chest.

The intifada has helped im- prove West Bank and Gaza medi- cine. "Medical standards have risen, especially in multiple trauma surgery," Dajani says, emphasising the positive. In the sheer burden of cases has instilled more discipline, more efficient treatment.

"Another thing has changed," says Dajani. "In our culture peo- ple never liked to give their blood. It's a matter of ignorance. I almost cry now when I see lines of people stretching outside the hospital waiting to give blood."

Throughout the past 18 months the rate of intifada patients enter- ing Makassed has remained fairly steady, at about 40 a month, with more referrals from other hospi- tals, but it looks calmer than in the first months of the intifada. Makassed has no relations with nearby Israeli hospitals like Hadassah on Mt. Scopus, Dajani says, because it feels capable of



Dr. Dajani, chief of Makassed Hospital's intensive care unit.

handling its own problems. Yet some of the intifada cases have provided Makassed doctors with unprecedented challenges which would have impressed Israeli doc- tors.

A case about eight months ago involved a Kalandiya man with six cylindrical rubber bullets in- side his head, including two in his brain. The patient survived.

The case of Fadi Al Bado, 13, brought in from Tulikarm, on May 25, might be a case for medical text-books. A rubber bullet on an upward trajectory hit him just below the right eye and severed the optic nerves before embedding itself in the upper parietal lobe of the brain. The boy could not be operated on because doctors were astonished to find that gravity moved the bullet inside the brain whenever the head was turned. When it reached the temporal lobe, a journey of perhaps 10 cen- timetres, he was strapped in po- sition for almost three weeks so that fibrous matter would grow around the bullet and fix it in place, said Makassed chief neu- rosurgeon Dr. Mueleh Awad. The bullet appeared to move through brain tissue and not along a blood vessel or other channel, he said. Israeli doctors said they had never heard of an object moving through brain tissue; Dr. Awad says he plans to write a paper on the phenomenon.

Dajani says Makassed has ex- perience one similar case. The doctors believe they were both an exclusive effect of the cylindrical rubber bullet, which is much heavier than regular bullets. Al Bado's particular bullet had shed most of its rubber coating on impact to reveal its steel core, and was eventually pulled out by an electro-magnet near the ear.

The boy remains blind in one eye, but his brain's vital func- tions have not been substantially impaired, Dajani says.

The survival rate from cylin- drical rubber bullets is certainly very high. In Gaza, an UNRWA breakdown of gunshot wounds and deaths to the end of July, shows that only one person died there out of 1,289 hit by a cylin- drical rubber bullet, while five out of 1,327 people struck by the more thinly-coated round rubber bullet died, and 157 out of 3,607 hit by regular or plastic bullets were killed. Plastic bullets are considered by UNRWA to be just as lethal as regular bullets and therefore are not classified separately.

At the present casualties in- flicted by the Israeli army rates it would take more than 20,000 hits by a cylindrical rubber bullet or even 360 hits by a plastic or regular bullet to kill the same number of people as were killed by Abdel Hadi Ghanem who forced the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem bus into a ravine of July 6. His motive was revenge for a friend, Radwan Abu Shmeis, who had been paralysed by a bullet, and was treated at Makassed 15 months earlier.

Each death and maiming on either side is point- less tragedy, says Dajani. He considers the intifada a symptom of a disease. "But we have to look at the cause of the disease to find the right treatment," Misdiagnos- is, he says, offering his profes- sional opinion, can be fatal. The political situation, he suggested, is like an appendix after it has perforated. "It is a very simple operation to remove the appen- dix, but to do so without infecting the whole body, that is difficult" — The Jerusalem Post.

An affluent society which rose from rubble of war

By Lothar Julitz

PEOPLE IN that part of Ger- many in the political west have a standard of living higher than any German society has ever had. Production is higher than ever before.

This is 44 years after the war, from the ruins of which Germany emerged like a phoenix from the ashes. Today it is, with Japan and the United States, one of the three leading industrial nations.

In 1948 the Swiss economist Wilhelm Röpke wrote: "Ger- many has been destroyed and turned into chaos the extent of which cannot be imagined by anybody who has not physically seen it."

A good three decades later, the Bonn Economics Minister of the time, Count Otto Lamsdorff, said: "A country which was shat- tered and starving has moved into the leading group of industrial na- tions, with a social-welfare net- work which is unparalleled in the world."

"All this was attained thanks... above all, to an economic system which encouraged efficiency and rewarded achievement."

This was a reference to the social market economy, which together with the foundation of Germany created the decisive prerequisite for progress and prosperity 40 years ago.

Particularly since the 1960s, there has been an undreamt-of development of prosperity for society as a whole.

More and more households have been able to afford high- quality consumer durables, such as deep-freeze refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers, telephones, television sets and stereo units.

Owning a car, very often two, going on holiday abroad, en- joying more leisure time and re- laxation than ever before are (almost) taken for granted.

The statistics of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden show that the provision of the population with goods and ser- vices has increased more than fivefold in real terms between 1950 and 1988.

Due to the parallel increase in

the population figure the increase in the standard of living has not been quite so high.

Nevertheless, per capita pri- vate consumption in real terms has more than quadrupled during the same period.

A comparison between the 10 major industrialised countries re- veals that, allowing for respective inflation, rates, the highest in- crease in wages and salaries has been in Germany.

German workers can claim this leading position even though nominal incomes have increased at a much lower rate than in most other countries.

This means that the cost of living in Germany has risen much more slowly than elsewhere.

Taking the real private con- sumption of goods and services as a point of reference, the standard of living has increased by an average of roughly four per cent per annum since the beginning of the 1950s.

Whereas the average gross monthly income per employee increased from DM243 to DM3,288 (1988) the net income increased during the same period, after tax and social security con- tributions, from DM213 to DM2,195.

Even allowing for inflation gross incomes, therefore, have more than quadrupled in real terms.

Rising income levels and grow- ing prosperity led to a growing significance in private consump- tion of those goods and services which serve to satisfy what could be termed sophisticated needs.

In comparison to the total con- sumption figure, on the other hand, the significance of basic needs has generally declined.

A four-person middle-income household at the beginning of the 50s, for example, still had to spend over half of its total ex- penditure on food, beverages and tobacco.

Today, the expenditure share of this category of goods has fallen to just over a fifth of the household budget.

This development has been accompanied by the correspond- ing increase in expenditure on cars, holidays and leisure time,

on more sophisticated household appliances, and on services, in particular those offered by banks and insurance companies.

Goods and services in the transport and communication category accounted for less than four per cent of the household budget back at the beginning of the 50s; in the second half of the 80s each household allocated almost a sixth of its budget to expenditure in this category.

Furthermore, the share of ex- penditures on rent, goods and services, education and entertain- ment, electricity, gas and fuels has also increased.

The Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft in Cologne calculated that the hourly income of an industrial worker in the Federal Republic of Germany increased from DM2.32 in 1958 to DM18.43 last year; this repre- sents an almost eightfold increase.

As the level of consumer prices almost tripled during the same period the purchasing power of this hourly income has increased threefold over the past thirty years.

Much more working time was needed to buy food back in 1958; a fifth less working time is needed today, for example, to buy butter and eggs.

In the field of durable con- sumer goods a refrigerator — now- days much more technologically sophisticated — is only slightly more expensive today than in 1958; instead of 212 working hours this household appliance only costs just over 30 working hours today.

Thirty years ago an industrial worker had to work over 54 hours to buy a lounge suite; today only half of this working time is needed to buy the same product.

In terms of working hours ser- vices have also become much less expensive.

Hairstressing services, such as washing and setting hair, only "cost" just under one hour today instead of one-and-a-half hours thirty years ago.

The introduction of the market economy system forty years ago gave the economy an unforeseen impetus and gave consumers and workers the greatest prosperity ever experienced in Germany.

Catching cobras, Tolba hands on art to his sons

By Myra MacDonald
Reuters

YOU, Egypt — Abdul- um pope the cobra back into a low case, ties a knot and hangs from a hook on the wall. Earlier his father Tolba Abdul- um has teased the cobra — ose bite is so deadly it can kill nan within half-an-hour — out a rock fissure in the snake- tested oasis of Fayoum.

Using a single stick, Tolba, o claims to be Egypt's only ke-hunter, tossed the cobra to a barren patch of desert ay from the undergrowth and sable escape. As the black-and-gold snake red its head, dilating its neck o a hood, he played with it, shing it one way and then the ver, like a hockey player drib- ng a ball with a stick. Peasants and children, who had plained of a cobra which kil- a 21-year-old man in the same ce only three days before, hered to watch.

ensing danger, the cobra sped, decided to play dead. "With all these people around, ys to itself if I bite one of m, another one will kill me," d Halim explained. Tolba warned to his audience, ouching down with a cigarette one hand and his stick in the er, he teased the snake back life.

Eventually he picked it up with bare hands and put it into the ow case.

Egypt's deadliest snake then i to endure a humiliating jour- / in a pillow case in a car boot, k some 70 kilometres to he village of Abu Rawash, r the pyramids outside Cairo. The cobra will eventually be i, one of up to 200 snakes ba catches every year, mostly universities and drug com- ies for use in research or di- cines, or for zoos. He also collects scorpions and es. On the side he breeds frogs ale to France to be eaten.

Back home, while his wife Zein hands out cups of sugary tea across a couple of jars of pickled snakes and scorpions, Tolba explains a tradition of snake-hunt- ing in his family which goes back for more generations than anyone can remember.

The house is full of snakes. His grandchildren play happily with some smaller non-poisonous snakes. The deadlier vipers are kept on the top floor.

Zein says she doesn't mind, she likes snakes. In 40 years of mar- ried life she was only frightened once, early on in their marriage when Tolba set a lizard on her and it chased her.

"It is my husband's profession. He is not a farmer, he is not a labourer. It is what he does," she says.

Tolba learned the trade from his father and has taught his five sons and other members of the family to hunt. His father was killed by a cobra.

"I am always nervous when I hold a cobra. I am not nervous once it is in the sack," he says, explaining that the snake which bit his father had wound its powerful muscles round his arm until he was forced to let go his grip on its head.

His son pulls the cobra out of the case to demonstrate the feel of the muscles under the cold, dry leathery skin.

A few days before in Abu Rawash, a young man from out- side the Tolba family had found a cobra, picked it up hoping to sell it, been bitten and died.

There are other dangers. Four members of the family were blown up and killed by one of the many land mines still hidden in the Egyptian desert.

Tolba goes in search of cobras about once every two weeks, often to Fayoum, a lush oasis of palm trees and maize fields.

With its many streams and can- als, and with small animals to feed on and cracked rocks to hide- in, it is ideal for snakes.

"The hardest part is finding the

cobra. Catching it is easy," Tolba says.

The hunt lasts for more than an hour, trekking across the oasis under the blazing sun looking for snake tracks.

The Tolbas can guess the type of snake from the width and depth of a track.

Tolba and his son separate, poking in rock fissures. Abdul Halim spots a track but it leads

nowhere.

A peasant asks Tolba to come and investigate a stream where "a monster" is supposedly hiding but again there is nothing.

Finally another farmer points to the palm tree where the 21-year-old was killed.

At the spot, Tolba speculates the cobra might have gone hunt- ing frogs and finds some wet tracks leading out of a stream. A

few minutes later he has the snake helpless under his stick.

By the end, you can even start feeling sorry for the cobra.

Abdul Halim says the cobra is a defensive animal which bites only when it feels threatened — so much so, he says, that if it sees a man, it will look the other way and pretend not to notice so that the man is not tempted to attack it.

For the sake of international understanding, talk slowly

By Stephen S. Rosenfield

WASHINGTON — I have a terri- fic idea to improve international understanding. It is tested, easy to apply, cost-free, available to everybody and guaranteed to be effective. The idea is that every- one should speak slowly and clearly so that people who don't know your language can under- stand you and you can under- stand them.

No fooling. I wonder why no one ever thought of this before.

You will guess that I have just returned from a trip abroad where I had trouble talking to the locals. It's true. We were in the Soviet Union, and my Russian wasn't good enough.

It is important to say what it wasn't good enough for. It was good enough for getting around

and for informal conversation, but not good enough for heavy traffic, when keeping with the whole flow was important.

On the relatively few occasions when people did make the effort to speak slowly and clearly, however, I caught almost every- thing. For when they made this effort they not only spoke in a different way, they also made a mental adjustment and altered their vocabulary, their sentence structure and their whole form of argumentation in order to meet me on my level.

Many of us have had this ex- perience: If the other person makes the effort, we enter a whole new linguistic and ex- periential realm. This is what allows us to get the maximum return out of our investment in a foreign language.

Since this is an article about international understanding, I am not even going to mention how impossible the French are about giving us mumbler's the slightest linguistic break.

Often it is said of or by people who don't speak a language fluently that they get the drift but not the details. But this is not really so. When you start losing the details you tend to give up, and you get nothing. Your choices then become picking it up from someone else or losing out entirely.

To get people to speak more slowly is no easy task. I have made that request from time to time. What usually happens is that people slow down for about one sentence's worth and then resume the old pace. Or else they raise the volume and speak in a

precise and exaggerated way and then quickly tire and relapse.

I have come to the view that those of us who want others to slow down had better practice up on the special techniques it takes. It does not come naturally to everyone, and you must practice one sentence, one minute, one conversation at a time.

First, look at the person you are talking to. It focuses your attention and helps him to lip-read, which we all do a little bit. The glazing over of his eyes is, alas, a useful signal of how you are doing.

Talk without a distorted pro- nunciation, which is a burden of one sort on your listener, whose ear is expecting the standard pro- nunciation, and a burden of another sort on you. And don't leave clauses dangling all over the

place — as in the sentence just preceding this one. Straighten your sentences out. One needn't go to baby talk, but there is such a thing as talking straight.

Understand that you commu- cate much by tone, look and gesture — all this is fine — but you also communicate by allusion and omission — and that is not fine. Allusions to any kind of special knowledge are almost al- ways fatal. No slang. No puns, no jokes.

The average person fails to finish a very high proportion of his sentences — this is wicked. The average person often switch- es topics halfway through a sen- tence — this is unmentionable.

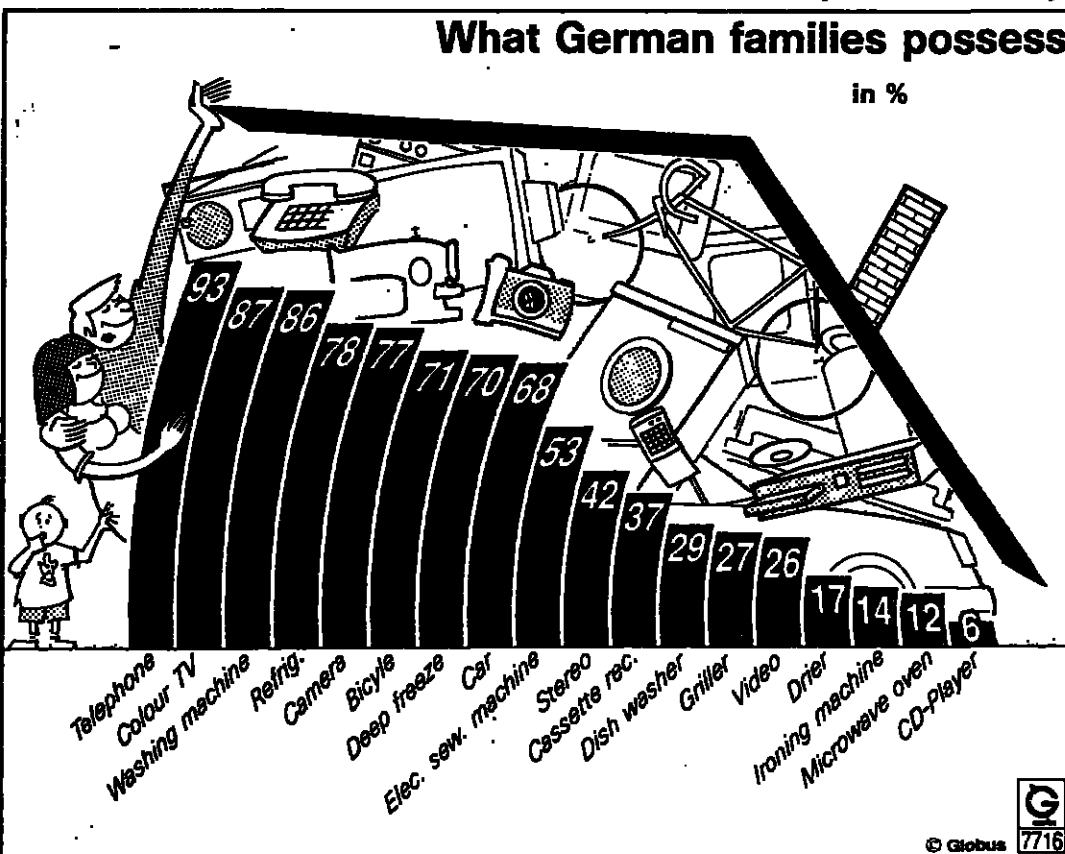
Often in talking to a foreigner you start to feel that the facts are insufficient and you must supple- ment them with special explana-

tions of your culture or your system. I have found myself, for instance, embarked on the stu- tifying mission of explaining the role of the Constitution in Ameri- can life. When you feel such an explanatory itch coming on, resist it with your every fiber.

Instead think of the immense gratitude you have felt when some foreign person responded to your spoken plea or to your hand frantically patting the air or to the mote of desperate pleading in your eye, and he slowed down.

There is pleasure and empower- ment alike when you are includ- ed in a conversation or raised to a level of understanding that was otherwise beyond your reach.

Ofcourseifyoudon'treally- giveadamn... The Washington Post.



Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

1) BODY ROCK

2) MONEY MANIA

Show times: 3:30, 5:15 p.m.

Show times: 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 p.m.

Cinema **ALJOLAN** Tel: 675571

NICO

Performance: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

1) REVENGE OF NARDS 'PART II'

3:30, 10:35 p.m.

2) AL MAWLED (Arabic)

12:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.



GCC ready to help Jordan's moves — Sharif Zaid

Jordan takes major strides in efforts to stabilise dinar

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — In the one week since Jordan received an aid of \$200 million from Saudi Arabia last Friday, strong signs have emerged that the government is pursuing a dedicated drive to fulfil its avowed goal of stabilising the Jordanian dinar and the effort is bearing fruit.

The most visible sign of success in the government effort came Thursday when the dollar, which hit an all-time high of JD 0.9 in late July and early August, fetched about 780 fils in the free market and at 830 fils in the black market.

The American currency was sold by commercial banks at 818 fils, but their buying price remained in the bracket of 775 to 790 fils, compared with 850 fils in the first week of August.

Optimism that the Jordanian dinar had taken its first step towards gradual recovery was further heightened by a statement by the prime minister, Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, that the Gulf

Arab states had promised to help Jordan overcome its economic problems.

The prime minister, who paid a visit to Kuwait and Qatar earlier in the week with messages to their leaders from His Majesty King Hussein, was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) "will take measures at consolidating Jordan's economy and bolstering its ability to overcome its difficult conditions."

Sharif Zaid, who was accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, said his talks

with the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al Thani, and other Kuwaiti and Qatari leaders covered Jordan's structural adjustment programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April this year.

Petra quoted the prime minister as saying that his interlocutors "showed total understanding of the programme and keenness to support us in our hardship."

Sharif Zaid did not say whether the two countries promised to extend financial assistance to Jordan. Kuwait has paid \$80 million to Jordan — half of it in cash and the rest in crude oil — since April and diplomatic sources here have indicated that it was willing to continue to help Jordan despite shortfalls in its own budget. Economists believe that Kuwait is more likely to favour aid to Jordan mostly in the form of crude oil.

The prime minister briefed the King Thursday on the outcome of his visits, Petra said.

The French News Agency (AFP) quoted "Arab sources" as saying that Saudi Arabia had promised to extend an interest-free deposit of \$1 billion to Jordan. In Abu Dhabi Wednesday, CBI Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi said Jordan had asked Gulf Arab states to make deposits at the CBI to boost hard currency reserves.

Reuters quoted Nabulsi as saying in an Amman interview Thursday that Jordan's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$400 million compared to \$20 million a few months ago.

AFP also quoted its sources as saying that central bank governors of the GCC countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the UAE — were to meet shortly to discuss extending interest-free deposits to Jordan.

Reuters quoted Nabulsi as also saying that the dual-exchange rate system introduced Aug. 1 was only temporary, pending the stabilisation of the dinar.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

'OPEC experts to meet in Vienna Monday'

ABU DHABI (R) — OPEC experts will meet in Vienna Monday to discuss the oil market situation, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper reported Friday. The semi-official Al Ittihad, in a report from the Austrian capital, said the talks would focus on the recent slide in oil prices. "They will prepare a detailed report to be presented to the price and long-term strategy committee at its meeting in Geneva in September," the paper said. It gave no source for its report. The committee can call an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) if it deemed prices have deviated too far from their target of \$18. Oil prices have dropped in the past week and there have been warnings they could tumble if OPEC continued to pump above its self-imposed ceiling of 19.5 million barrels per day (BPD). A Reuters survey estimated OPEC's July production at 21.5 million BPD. Oil sources said nearly 75 per cent of the increase came from Kuwait and the UAE.

China says tourism dropped 1%

PEKING (R) — China has said its tourism earnings fell one per cent during the first half of the year, but Western diplomats believe there will be heavy losses in the coming months. The official New China News Agency quoted the deputy director of tourism, He Guangwei, as saying that the revenue from tourism reached \$970 million from January to June. He did not mention the fact that many visitors have been scared away from China by the June 4 military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in Peking when the army shot hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people. Western diplomats said China's peak tourist season is in September and October and that the country could lose as much as \$1.5 billion from expected revenue this year. Chinese officials say hotels in Peking had occupancy rates of 50 per cent in June but top hotels catering to foreigners have said they were 20 to 30 per cent full. China's national airline, the Civil Aviation Administration of China, announced a 20 per cent cut in fares on major domestic routes last month to stimulate business.

Shell, BP report gains

LONDON (AP) — The Royal Dutch-Shell group of companies said its second-quarter net profit jumped 60 per cent, thanks to a continuing rise in crude oil prices and higher refining and petrochemical margins. British Petroleum Co. Plc reported a 34 per cent gain for the same period, citing the same factors. Royal Dutch-Shell, which is based in the Hague, the Netherlands, and in London, said its net profit for the three months came to £1.01 billion (\$1.65 billion) compared with £633 million (\$1.03 billion) in the same period a year ago. Both companies' financial statements are based on British accounting methods and cannot be directly compared to those of most American companies. Inventories are valued on the basis of first in first out (FIFO), instead of the typical American system of last in first out (LIFO). The companies call earnings calculated by the LIFO method historical cost earnings. Those calculated by the FIFO method are called "current cost" results. On a current cost basis, Royal Dutch-Shell's net income rose 38 per cent to £912 million (\$1.5 billion) from £660 million (\$1.08 billion).

Hilton puts hotel chain on auction block

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hilton Hotels Corp., the celebrated U.S. hotel chain, put itself up for sale, saying it was willing to sell either a portion or the entire company. Rumours have been rife in recent months that the Beverly Hills, California-based company was the target of a takeover, especially since it announced in June that it had hired an adviser to help find a way to boost shareholder value. But the price of the stock, which has been rising steadily in recent months, fell \$3.875 to \$108 on the "news. Apparently investors were disappointed that there was no offer for Hilton already on the table. Hilton, whose hotels include the Waldorf Astoria in New York, said it will contact prospective buyers to determine their interest in acquiring all or part of the company. Two months ago British leisure group Trusthouse Forte Plc denied a published report that it had made a bid for Hilton, but said that if Hilton was for sale it would be interested in examining its books. Hilton, one of the oldest U.S. chains, was established by Conrad Hilton in 1919. It operates 271 hotels and inns in the United States and three casino hotels in Nevada.

Soft-drink giant sues candy company

CHICAGO (AP) — Coca-Cola Co. officials don't want people buying little bottles of "mad scientist magic powder" because it might just make them think there's "Coke (cocaine)" in their coke. The "magic powder" is a powdered bubble gum produced in Italy and distributed in this country by Alma-Leo U.S.A. Inc., of Northbrook, a Chicago suburb. The company sells it in tiny plastic bottles that Coca-Cola officials say are shaped like old soda bottles. The soft drink giant sued Alma-Leo, and briefs in the case were heard by U.S. District Court Judge James Moran. Coca-Cola maintains that the bubble gum's packaging may create a connection between their product and cocaine. "Think about it — 'magic powder' being sold in a 'coke' bottle. What's the implication?" asked Randy Donaldson, public relations manager for Coca-Cola. While an extract of the coca leaf is used as a flavouring in Coca-Cola, Donaldson said cocaine itself is not, and never has been, an ingredient in the soft drink. Floyd A. Mandell, attorney for Alma-Leo, said he thinks Coca-Cola is overreacting. "It doesn't even look like cocaine, it looks like powdered candy," Mandell said. "There's yellowish-white powder in the little yellow bottles and pink powder in the little pink bottles. You chew it and it turns into bubble gum and changes colour."

Bush signs law to rescue ailing industry

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has signed far-reaching legislation to rescue the ailing U.S. savings and loan industry, calling the measure a crucial, first step "toward restoring public confidence." "I'm proud to sign this monster," Bush said at a Rose Garden ceremony attended by architects of the bill, which authorises \$50 billion in new government borrowing over the next 26 months. The bill also imposes tough new standards on savings and loan institutions and triggers the most sweeping overhaul of the regulatory bureaucracy in 50 years. Savings and Loans are savings banks that were set up to help people buy their own homes at low interest rates. Originally they were carefully regulated, limited to lending money only for home purchases and restricted in the amount of interest they could charge for the mortgages and pay out to savings depositors. As inflation and interest rates rose in the 1970s, the savings and loans were buffeted when depositors pulled out their savings and put them in better-paying investments. Congress moved to deregulate the industry, allowing the savings banks to pay high interest rates to savers and make riskier loans. The current problems stemmed from that deregulation.

U.K. business in South Africa grows

LONDON (AP) — British investment in South Africa is still thriving, according to a study amidst renewed international pressure on athletes and businesses to boycott the country to protest apartheid. More than 200 British companies have subsidiaries in South Africa, despite substantial disinvestment in the past three years to protest the government's rigid policies of racial separation known as apartheid, says the report by the Labour Research Department. The 20 largest of these companies employ a total of 250,000 people in South Africa, according to the department, a left-wing, trade union research organisation. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government opposes mandatory economic sanctions, saying they would hurt the majority black population and neighbouring black states more than South Africa's white governing minority. But a group of foreign ministers from the Commonwealth agreed Tuesday to recommend the 48-nation organisation of Britain and its former colonies adopt a new package of financial sanctions against South Africa.

Japanese business steams ahead amid political scandals

TOKYO (AP) — Despite the country's succession of political scandals, Japan Inc.'s business engines are running at peak efficiency.

This week, the beleaguered governing party installed its third prime minister in three months after its worst election defeat in decades.

But Japanese corporate profits are reaching new heights as businessmen pour new investments into factories at home and abroad. Business leaders welcomed new Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in nearly the same manner in which they greeted his predecessor, Sosuke Uno, who just 69 days earlier had replaced Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Uno and Takeshita both stepped down after being caught up in political scandals.

The impact of recent political problems on the economy has been quite small, says Hiroshi Uchida, senior analyst at First Boston (Japan) Ltd.

"In this country, economic fundamentals are much more important than who becomes prime minister," he said.

The Japan Times newspaper, in an editorial published Friday, dismissed the recent internal turmoil of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as "a sort of tempest in a teacup or a political burlesque."

For more than three decades, the conservative LDP has been the faithful partner of the bureaucracy and of big business in creating Japan's renowned economic growth, and social and political stability.

An influence-peddling scandal involving the Recruit Co., a publishing conglomerate, grew out of these close ties, seriously damaged the ruling party and virtually paralysed parliament for more than a year.

But the private sector's operations haven't been hurt by the political whirlwind and businesses are now charging ahead with new investment. Economic coordination between business and the gov-

ernment bureaucracy also continues as usual, largely untouched by the scandals.

That's no surprise to analysts who have long pointed out that in Japan, career bureaucrats, not politicians, draft most laws and develop and implement policies.

Huge, wealthy companies like Toyota long ago stopped relying on the government, the analysts say.

Many Japanese businessmen don't even seem seriously to fear a Socialist government, which could emerge in elections for the Lower House of Parliament, which must be held by next summer.

"You have to remember the Socialist Party of Japan is to the right of many right-wing parties in other countries... The policies of a Socialist government wouldn't be that dramatically different from the LDP," said Chris Russell, head of Equity Analysis at Jardine Fleming Japan, a securities firm.

The Socialists don't advocate nationalising industries or redistributing income, and would have trouble moving the entrenched bureaucracy toward radical change even if they wanted to, he said.

There are concerns that a victory by the protection-minded Socialists could worsen trade friction with the United States, and uncertainty over the country's political affairs has dampened stock market activity for months.

But the stock market surprised analysts by jumping up, not down, after each major setback for the pro-business Liberal Democratic Party. When Takeshita resigned to take responsibility for the influence-peddling scandal, and when a major parliamentary defeat forced his successor Uno to step down in rapid succession, the market shot up.

Market analysts say investors were relieved of uncertainty and reassured that business could go on as usual.

Now, for brokers in the stock market, Russell says, "politics is a non-issue."

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, August 10, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	417.1	421.3
U.S. dollar	580.3	586.3	Dutch guilder	271.9	279.6
Pound Sterling	942.3	951.7	Swedish crown	89.9	90.8
Deutschemark	306.5	309.6	Italian lire (for 100)	42.6	43.0
Swiss franc	353.3	358.9	Belgian franc (for 100)	146.2	147.7
French franc	90.6	91.5			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world-currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
One Sterling	1.5953/63	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1720/30	Canadian dollar
	1.9290/97	Deutschemarks
	2.1705/15	Dutch guilders
	1.6620/30	Swiss francs
	40.25/30	Belgian francs
	6.5175/5225	French francs
	1387/1388	Italian lire
	141.00/10	Japanese yen
	6.5280/5330	Swedish crowns
	6.0240/90	Norwegian crowns
	7.4650/4700	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	363.85/364.25	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The Australian share market closed sharply higher, kicked ahead by a late burst of buying. The All Ordinaries Index rose 13.6 to 1,694.9.

TOKYO — Share prices closed mixed in thin trade while those market players not off on summer holidays again snatched up blue-chip electrical stocks. The Nikkei Index fell 6.84 to 34,712.96.

HONG KONG — Prices ended slightly higher after see-sawing through the day. Brokers expected narrow ranges to continue until fresh factors emerged. The Hang Seng Index rose 4.71 to 2,613.39.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed narrowly mixed in active trading after selective buying alternated with bouts of profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial Index shed 2.46 to close at 1,377.40 after setting a post-crash high Thursday.

BOMBAY — The exchange was closed after tax officials raided the offices of brokers, disrupting the fixing of contango (carry-forward) charges for business done in the two weeks ending Thursday.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended mixed to lower in cautious trading, with continued heavy demand for chemicals failing to lift the market. The Dax Index fell 1.33 to 1,608.60.

ZURICH — Shares closed generally higher in very lively trading. Strong buying interest in chemical shares and their options triggered demand in other sectors. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index rose 7.7 to 1,214.3.

PARIS — Prices ended firmer but the prospect of a four-day close for holidays took the edge off a market buoyed this week by takeover activity.

LONDON — Share prices were firmer but off their highs in a drifting market, with traders uncertain of the near-term direction. At 1501 GMT the FTSE index was up 4.4 at 2,351.7.

NEW YORK — Blue chips posted moderate gains in late-morning trading but were below their earlier levels. Bonds rose sharply following news of a surprisingly weak July producer price index. The Dow was up 15 at 2,727.

Cut in budget deficit seen as key to U.S. trade balance

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has the largest trade deficit in the world and congressional budget analysts have said the best way to turn it around is to bring the government's own budget into balance.

The fundamental reason the U.S. current account has sunk so deeply into red ink is that the United States is now spending more than it produces — requiring it to borrow abroad to finance the difference," the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said in a report to Congress.

The trade deficit has been in the red since a small surplus of \$2 billion was posted in 1980. The 1988 current account deficit, the

measure of imports and exports of goods and services, was \$127 billion.

At the same time, the U.S. budget deficit has risen from \$40 billion in fiscal 1979 to an estimated \$146 billion in the current 1989 financial year. It reached a peak of \$221 billion in fiscal 1986.

Many economists and lawmakers are concerned that a large trade deficit increases the chances of recession, intensifies pressure for protectionist trade legislation and attracts investment capital that is needed in other parts of the world.

They also worry about the possibility of a financial crisis if foreign investment suddenly de-

clines. In addition, the low U.S. saving rate is a symptom of the American demand for more foreign goods and services.

Americans saved 5.4 per cent of their disposable personal income during the second quarter of the year, up from a record low of 3.2 per cent in 1987 but still among the lowest of the industrialised nations.

If no federal spending or taxation policies are changed, the CBO estimates the budget deficit would fall gradually from \$155 billion to \$122 billion in 1994. At the same time, the current account deficit would fall to \$75 billion.

Turkey cuts import taxes by 80%

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has slashed import taxes on goods ranging from toothpaste to tractors by up to 80 per cent in a new bid to cut inflation.

Government officials said the tax cuts on 331 items would be effective immediately.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal promised the measure last week in hopes that cheaper imports would fuel competition and thus pull down inflation that surged to a five-month high of 72.4 per cent in the 12 months to end-July.

"This is a good lesson for cruel companies who do nothing but hike prices all the time," said an Ankara housewife. Real income has been slashed by more than half this decade.

But businessmen expressed concern, saying a surge in imports could push domestic industry further towards recession.

"Such measures should be taken cautiously and gradually to give our industry time to prepare," said Nurullah Gezgin, head of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry. "Otherwise further drops in production and lay-offs are inevitable."

Gungor Yener, chairman of the Ankara Chamber of Com-

merce, commented: "This is a first warning by the government ... but it will not have drastic effects on prices. Inflation is already running at a three-digit level."

Some said Turkey, trying to prepare for full European Community membership, had to remove protectionist barriers.

"Our industry has to learn to force itself to compete with world prices and quality levels ... we will have to try hard... we have to lift this over-protection," said industrialist Mumim Erkut.

No figure has been made public for real first quarter gross national product (GNP) growth so far, but officials estimated the end-year figure could be as low as 2.5 per cent, the same as population growth.

Ozal has announced measures designed to liberalise the country's rigid foreign exchange system and make imports cheaper.

Ozal said these measures would help Turkey prepare for entrance into the European Community. Turkey's application to full membership, submitted two years ago, is under study.

He told a meeting of business-

men that with the new measures "Turkey is only one step away from full convertibility of the Turkish lira."

The measures, which will go into force after publication in the official gazette later this week, will allow Turkish citizens to bring in foreign credit without prior governmental permission.

Turks will be able to purchase foreign securities and foreigners will be able to buy Turkish securities quoted at the Istanbul Stock Exchange.

Turks will be able to obtain from the banks foreign currency up to a ceiling of \$3,000. In the past hard currency could be purchased only for travel abroad and import payments.

Foreigners who buy property in Turkey by converting foreign exchange into Turkish lira will be able to transfer abroad the proceeds from the sale of such property.

Restrictions will be lifted on import and export of gold and precious stones.

In the capital of Ankara, central bank officials said Turkey had sufficient reserves of almost \$5 billion to meet the demand for hard currency that will result from these measures.

Saudi bank cuts losses after bail out

KUWAIT (R) — Saudi Cairo Bank said it had sharply cut losses in the first half of 1989 after a government bail-out and a major shake-up in management.

In a statement received by Reuters Friday, the Jeddah-based bank said it recorded a six-month net loss of 2.5 million riyals (\$670,000) down from 55.3 million riyals (\$150 million) in the same period of 1988.

"There has been a substantial upgrading of management," a bank official told Reuters by tele-

phone from Jeddah. He said several layers of senior staff were replaced last year by experienced bankers, who immediately set out to trim staff, cut expenses and introduce new procedures.

The Saudi government takeover of the bank in 1988 after several years of huge losses stemming from an embezzlement scandal early in the decade and a pile of uncollected loans.

Two of Saudi Cairo's managers, including the Egyptian director general, were found guilty in 1984 of using bank funds in illegal precious metal speculation in which more than 400 million riyals (\$100 million) were lost.

Bankers said that in subsequent years running of the bank was hampered by a dispute between Saudi shareholders and the foreign joint venture partner, Egypt's Banque du Caire.

The bank suffered major losses three years in row, topped by a

loss of 110 million riyals (\$30 million) in 1988.

But last year the government-owned public investment fund bought a 50 per cent shareholding, doubling the bank's capital to 600 million riyals (\$60 million).

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

AOUITA TAKES REVENGE ON ONDIEKI: Said Aoutia took belated revenge on Yobes Ondieki but fell well short in his attempt on the world 3,000 metres record at an international athletics meeting here in Malmo, Sweden, Thursday. Aoutia has not met Ondieki since the Kenyan comprehensively defeated him over 5,000 metres in Seville, Spain, two months ago. On Thursday the Moroccan world champion and world record holder over 5,000 metres showed who was master with a decisive victory. He won his time of seven minutes 43.95 seconds was well outside Henry Rono's 11-year-old world record of 7:32.1. Aoutia afterwards blamed Ondieki for the slow time. "I am sorry it was a slow race," he told a news conference. "I am very angry that the race was destroyed." Aoutia said pacemakers Charles Cheruiyot and Sydney Maree had done a fine job but Ondieki had not kept to his promise to try for the world record also. Consequently, Aoutia said, he had been forced to keep the pace slow in order to watch the Kenyan. But the 2,000 metre mark it had become apparent that a world record was unlikely with the pacemakers 40 metres in front of the main bunch. (R)

KINGDOM SETS BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR: Roger Kingdom set the best performance of the year as he led a 1-2-3 American finish in the men's 100-metre hurdles at the "City of Grosseto" track and field meeting Thursday night. Kingdom, who was clocked in 13.10 seconds ahead of Rinaldo Nehemiah and Keith Talley, scored one of the seven American wins in the yearly competition in this Tuscan city, south of Florence. Nehemiah, the veteran hurdles specialist, finished in 13.24 seconds while Talley was timed in 13.59. Reggie Davis fought off a challenge of Nigerian Henry Anike in the 400-metre hurdles while Raimond Pierre had fewer problems in overcoming Italy's Roberto Riband and fellow-American Walter McCoy in the 400 metres. Evelyn Ashford edged Diane Williams in 11.24 seconds to produce a 1-2 U.S. finish in the women's 100-metre.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K87 ♥ KQ6 ♦ KQ854 ♣ 103
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—Had your suit been a major, you certainly would show it. However, you really don't want to look for an 11-trick contract, and your hand is balanced even though you have a five-card suit. A jump to two no trump describes both the strength and shape of your holding perfectly.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KJ9 ♥ J10 ♠ Q972 ♦ K6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—You are certainly worth another bid, and if you're a gambler, you probably tried three no trump. However, there's something undignified about bidding a game in no trump and having the defenders run a suit against you. We prefer three spades, allowing partner to bid three no trump if he has a heart stopper.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AK85 ♥ AQ3 ♦ 95 ♣ KQJ8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—A jump to three spades would be invitational, not forcing. Since your hand is worth 20 points in support of spades, you should have reasonable play for game even if partner has a rock-bottom minimum. So leap to four spades.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K105 ♥ AJ1042 ♦ 85 ♣ A63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—First, partner must be short in diamonds. Secondly, since he could have doubled if he was interested in spades as well as hearts, North must have a reasonable suit and fair hand. Complete with two hearts, but we also would accept more bullish action.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32822-4426.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

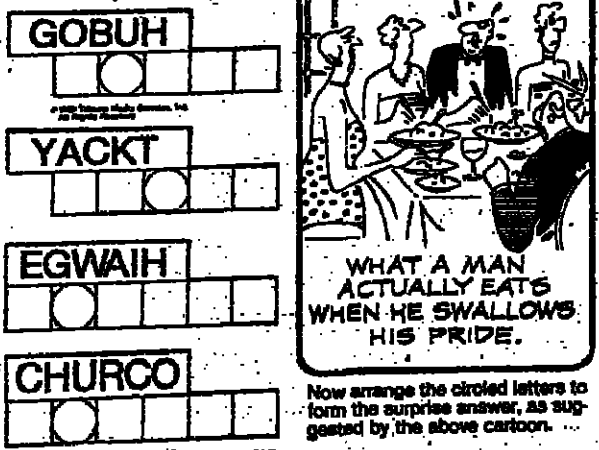


"If torturing the phone bill in boiling oil makes you feel better — fine — get it out of your system!"

JUMBLE.

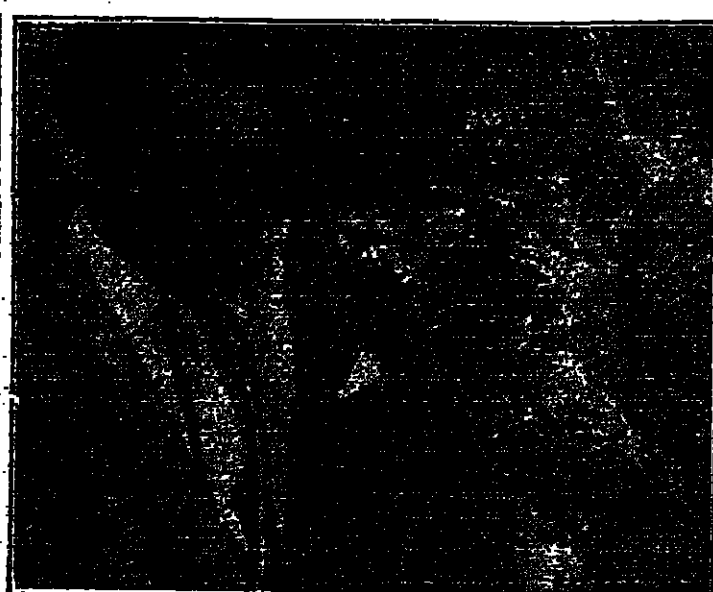
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: "O O O O"

Yesterday's Jumble: PEAK, ASING, GARBLE, TANGLE
Answer: In a politician, the gift of gab is often connected with this — THE GIFT OF GRAB



A sprinter's shame: But Carl Lewis thinks Johnson's fall could help sport

Johnson's record could fall..

MALMO, SWEDEN (AP) — Carl Lewis' 100-metre sprint in 10.13 seconds could be a new world record if officials conclude that Canadian Ben Johnson used drugs when running it in 10.05 two years ago, and that's fine with Lewis.

"If it happens, that's great," Lewis said Thursday at the star-studded Mai Galan invitational track meet. "If not, we'll have to continue the fight against drug use in our sport."

Johnson set the meet record here two years ago, six weeks before winning the 100-metre gold medal in 9.83 at the world championships in Rome.

That time still stands as the world record. But the International Amateur Athletic Federation, track and field's world governing body, has proposed a policy to disqualify athletes retroac-

tively and withdraw their results if they confess later to taking drugs.

During a Canadian government inquiry in June into drug abuse in sports, Johnson admitted taking drugs a month before the Rome championships. Johnson passed all drug tests in Rome.

If the IAAF congress accepts the proposal next month, Johnson's record at Mai Galan would be nullified and Lewis, who was second in the Seoul Olympics in 1992, would get the world record.

Johnson's winning time of 9.79 in Seoul was scratched when he

was stripped of the gold after testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs.

Lewis says it would be "very positive" if Johnson is stripped of his Rome world record as well. "It would send a tremendous message to possible drug users in the future," Lewis said. "They know that even if they're caught later on in their careers, their world records, Olympic and world championship medals can be taken away."

It could stop some people. So it's a tremendous opportunity for the IAAF to make a great stand against drugs. That's really my main focus."

Johnson's concession made the IAAF to introduce tougher, wide-sweeping rules on doping control. Global, random out-of-competition testing for steroids and their masking agents will start this winter.

"We will do spot checks all over," said Dr. Arne Ljungqvist of Sweden, chairman of the IAAF's medical committee, who attended Thursday's meet.

Lewis owns six Olympic gold medals, one Olympic silver and five world championship golds.

But he was never broken a single world record in an individual event, only in the 4x100 relay at the 1983 world championships in Helsinki, Finland, and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. He ran the anchor legs on both U.S. winning teams.

Chicago Cubs: too soon to think of series sweep

NEW YORK (AP) — Chicago Cubs manager Don Zimmer has been around too long to get excited about a series sweep and a three-game lead in early August.

"But this is still a four-team race and we're only two or three games up in the loss column on the other teams. So I refuse to get excited," Zimmer said after the Cubs beat Montreal 3-0 Wednesday for their third straight victory over the Expos.

Rick Sutcliffe pitched a one-hitter for seven innings and Ryne Sandberg hit his third homer in three games for Chicago, who were tied with the Expos going into the game.

It was the seventh straight loss for the Expos, who have scored only 17 runs during the streak.

"Right now we are playing the poorest ball we've played all sea-

sons," Montreal manager Buck Rodgers said.

Sandberg's two-run homer in the third, his 19th of the season, came off Bryn Smith, 9-6.

Giants 10, Reds 1

Kevin Mitchell hit a pair of two-run homers and drove in his 100th run earlier than any player in 10 years as San Francisco routed Cincinnati.

Don Robinson, 11-7, pitched a five-hitter for his third straight complete game and fourth of the season. No other San Francisco pitcher has more than one complete game this season.

Robinson and Matt Williams also homered as the Giants snapped a three-game losing streak.

Mets 6, Phillies 0

Garry Carter had his first four-

hit game since Sept. 23, 1987, and

Bob Ojeda scattered seven hits as New York beat Philadelphia for its second straight shutout of the Phillies.

Carter doubled twice and singled twice to raise his average from .116 to .152. Darryl Strawberry homered for the second consecutive game, a two-run drive that capped a five-run fifth.

...but he vows to fight back

BONN (R) — Ben Johnson intends to prove he is the world's fastest sprinter without using drugs.

In an interview with the mass German circulation newspaper Bild, the Canadian said he was not worried about the possibility of his name being erased from the record books.

"Even if I am stripped of the world record there will be plenty of chances to win it back," he said. "I will prove who the best sprinter in the world is. I have not reached my potential."

In the interview with Bild published Friday he said he believed he could chip a tenth of a second off his discredited Seoul record of 9.79 seconds without

using steroids.

Johnson, in West Germany at Bild's invitation, said he had resumed training two weeks ago.

"I am sure I could still run the 100 metres in 10 seconds, perhaps even faster," he said. "My body wants to do it, my heart wants to do it. But the time isn't ripe yet. I am still banned for another 14 months."

His suspension expires on September 25 next year and he hopes to make his comeback on the day he is reinstated. He also hopes to race against Carl Lewis over 100 metres but is not sure whether the American would be interested.

Basketball goes single market

NEW YORK (AP) — Although still considered an expensive novelty, the signing of U.S. players Danny Ferry and Brian Shaw by an Italian team eventually may spawn an era of more international bidding for the world's top basketball talent.

Even while national basketball association teams have begun to raid the European continent for players, Il Messaggero of Rome has taken Ferry from the Los Angeles Clippers and Shaw from the Boston Celtics at a total cost exceeding \$2 million a year.

Owned by Ferruzzi Finanziaria spa, the conglomerate suspected of a recent attempt to corner the U.S. soybean market, Il Messaggero may be one of few European teams capable of bidding for top U.S. players.

"Messaggero has opened the way to signing young big-name NBA players," wrote Sandro Aquari, basketball reporter for the Rome daily newspaper Il Messaggero, which sponsors the team. "This could mark a new horizon in international basketball."

At the same time, Aquari called the signings a "big novelty" and said: "Messaggero has great economic means. I'm not sure the other squads will be able to do the same thing. Messaggero has opened the way, but it remains to be seen who will — and who can — follow."

Bill Strickland is one of the Prosperi Inc. agents who helped represent Ferry, the Clippers' no. 1 pick in this summer's draft.

Strickland called the signings of Ferry and Shaw "an indication of the growing sophistication of the Italian leagues and their ability to pay and compete with the NBA."

Strickland also represents the no. 1 pick in the draft, Pervis Ellison, who was chosen by Sacramento. "I have not had any Italian team approach me about Pervis," he said, "in view of what has happened" he wouldn't be surprised if he did.

The NBA thinks it's unlikely. Russell Granik, NBA executive vice president, said it would be "a long time before European teams can produce the kind of revenues to pay these kinds of salaries on a regular basis."

"The only way they would be able to compete is if they're prepared to make unprudent business decisions," Granik said. "In American sports, we've had owners willing to do that in the past. Fortunately, there's been less of that in the NBA recently, but occasionally you do find ownership that's not concerned with the bottom line but just in winning games or getting publicity."

Granik added, "I think our teams, in terms of negotiations, pretty well understand and will convey that this is an isolated situation now with one particular team and one particular owner and not a market-type of determination."

Shaw, who started 54 games at guard last year as a rookie for the Celtics, signed a two-year contract Wednesday night that reportedly will pay him nearly \$1

million a year. He leaves for Italy Sunday.

Last month, Ferry signed a one-year deal that Il Messaggero said was worth \$1 million, making him the second-highest paid athlete in Italy. Soccer star Diego Maradona of Argentina makes \$1.2 million a year playing for Napoli.

Sources close to the negotiations between Il Messaggero and Ferry, however, said the deal was worth closer to \$2 million and included a free house and car.

Pooh Richardson, a guard from UCLA, also was courted by Il Messaggero, but he likely will sign with the expansion Minnesota Timberwolves for much less than offered to play in Italy, his agent said.

"I know specifically of other teams in Italy that have gone after veteran NBA players," Strickland said, "but not at the kind of dollars we're seeing now."

At the same time, the Golden State Warriors and Atlanta Hawks each signed Soviet players, and the Los Angeles Lakers Monday signed Vladi Divac of

Yugoslavia, their first-round draft choice. Other Soviet and Yugoslavian players already have left their countries to play in Spain and West Germany.

U.S. players have been playing in Europe for at least 20 years. In fact, Bill Bradley played briefly for a team in Milan in the 1960s while in England on a Rhodes scholarship. He later went on to star with the New York Knicks before becoming a U.S. senator from New Jersey.

Most of the NBA players who have gone to Europe, have been beyond their prime, second caliber types or players who have had trouble in the United States. Bob McAdoo, Michael Ray Richardson, Darren Daye, Kyle Macy, Roosevelt Bouie and Dan Caldwell are among those expected to play in Italy this year.

Veteran Marc Iavaroni, formerly of the Philadelphia 76ers who last played in the NBA in 1988 with Utah, signed Tuesday to play with Philips Milan.

"Whether this is going to be a longstanding thing and involve other teams is much too early to tell," Granik said.

SWAZI REFEREE QUILTS AFTER STABBING: Swaziland's top referee said in Mbabane Tuesday he was quitting soccer after being stabbed six times during a riot after a game last Sunday. "I am getting out of the sport while I am still alive," said Sport Dlamini, who is on the International Football Federation register of referees. Dlamini was attacked by enraged fans after he awarded a free kick in the closing minutes of a game between traditional rivals Mbabane Highlanders and Denwer Sundowns. Highlanders scored from the free kick to equalize 1-1. "I would do exactly the same as I did Sunday in the same circumstances, because I am clear about the rules," said Dlamini.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



